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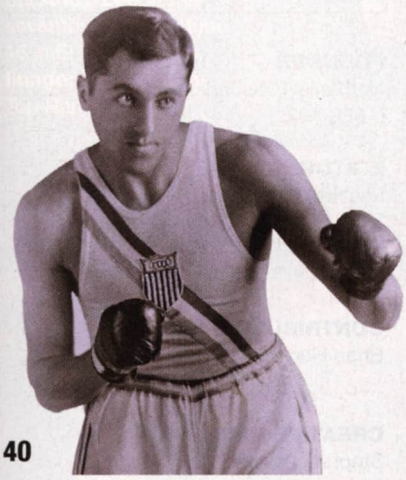

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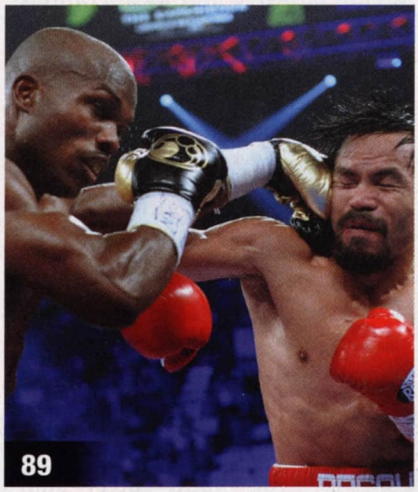

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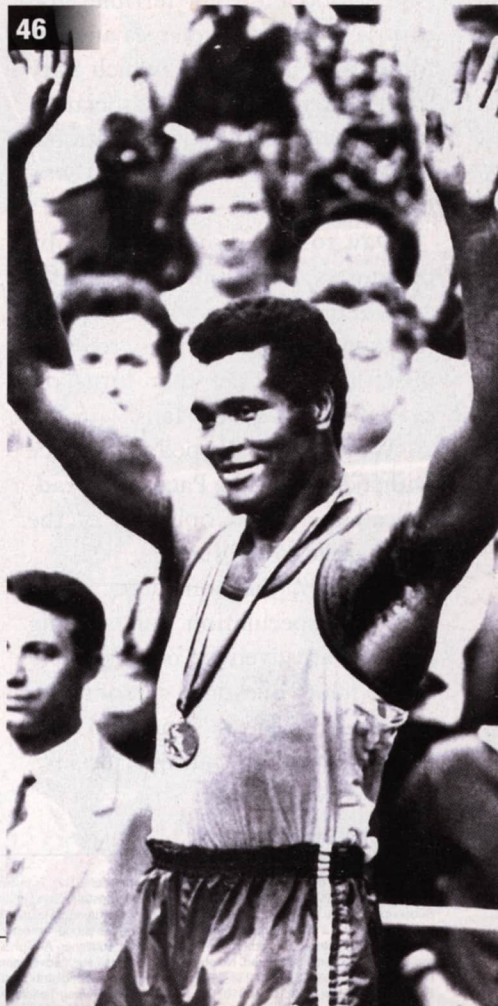

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COVER IMAGES: **DAVID PRICE** (CENTER) / **DEAN MOUHTAROPOULOS-GETTY IMAGES; TYSON FURY** (LEFT) / **BRYAN LENNON-GETTY IMAGES; DAVID HAYE** (RIGHT) / **MICHAEL STEELE-GETTY IMAGES**

AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Good could come out of the horrible decision that gave Timothy Bradley a split-decision victory over Manny Pacquiao on June 9 in Las Vegas.

The outcry that followed the debacle prompted U.S. Senators John McCain and Harry Reid — who don't agree on much — to introduce legislation to create a federal commission to oversee the sport, which would be called the United States Boxing Commission.

The idea is both sound and overdue, as similar proposals have fallen short of becoming law in the past.

The sport is currently overseen by individual state commissions (some good and some terrible) that choose judges and referees and enforce their own rules, which vary from state to state. The Association of Boxing Commissions, a national body, has regulations but no way to enforce them.

Day to day, boxing is run by promoters, sanctioning-body officials and managers whose behind-the-scenes maneuverings reek of unsettling mischief that turns off even the most-ardent fans.

When we're slapped in the face with a decision like Pacquiao-Bradley, all the worst opinions of the sport surge to the surface.

"Clearly, the conspiracy theories and speculation surrounding the fight are given life because there are so many questions surrounding the integrity of the sport and how it is managed in multiple jurisdictions," McCain said.

The senator described in a statement the function of the USBC:

"If enacted, the Commission would administer Federal boxing law and coordinate with other Federal regulatory agencies to ensure that this law is enforced; oversee all professional boxing matches in the United States; and work with the boxing industry and local commissions to improve the safety, integrity, and professionalism of professional boxing in the United States."

Music to the ears, no?

The proposed legislation goes further than that. Among other provisions: The USBC would license all participants — boxers, promoters, managers, sanctioning bodies, judges and referees — and have the authority to revoke licenses if federal law is violated, or for unethical conduct. It also would improve health and safety standards for the boxers, which should be the most-important goal of any oversight body.

Of course, the federal commission would only be as effective as those running it. The head should be someone of conviction who knows the sport and is given resources to enforce regulations to the fullest.

The USBC wouldn't solve all of boxing's ills. However, it certainly would go a long way toward cleaning up the sport and changing the perception of so many fans and casual observers. ■

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Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. never looked better than he did when he knocked out **Andy Lee** in the seventh round on June 16 in El Paso, Texas. **Image:** Chris Farina-Top Rank

Carl Froch overwhelmed **Lucian Bute** en route to a fifth-round knockout on May 26 in Froch's hometown of Nottingham, England. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

Randall Bailey (right) regained a major title a remarkable 12 years after he last held one by stopping **Mike Jones** in the 11th round on June 9 in Las Vegas. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

PACQUIAO-BRADLEY

The majority of those who watched the Manny Pacquiao-Tim Bradley fight on June 9 were aghast at the decision. Some agreed with the judges, who gave Bradley a split-decision victory. Here are some opinions.

THE ARROGANCE

At least 98 percent of the online commentary regarding the Pacquiao vs. Bradley fight suggests that those of us who belong to the viewing public feel duped by the judges' decision favoring Bradley. Yet (HBO commentator) Max Kellerman had the audacity to suggest that sometimes ringside judges see things that the viewing public cannot possibly see at home on television. In fact, one of the ringside judges, Duane Ford, was even more audacious when he opined, "Bradley gave Pacquiao a boxing lesson." Maybe Kellerman and Ford are both right. In fact, next time I won't buy the fight and simply wait for the judges' scorecards before I find out who won. After all, as a member of the viewing public, what I see does not really count anyways. Presumably those in attendance at the MGM who loudly jeered the decision were also wrong. Hopefully the rematch will be held in an empty barn with only three judges and a referee present. The rest of us dimwits will eagerly await the results to be posted online.

Jake VanderKooy, Ph.D.
York University (Glendon campus)
Toronto, Canada

A DIFFERENT VIEW

I had the Pacman-Bradley fight scored exactly as two of the judges did — 115-113 for Bradley.

While I agree that Pacman landed some of the harder shots, I thought that he fought more vigorously toward the end of rounds (last 60 seconds) and not so much in the first two minutes. Pacman gave away the first two rounds and seemed to take a round off late in the fight. He appeared to follow Bradley around without cutting off the ring. Going into the 10th round, I had Pacman ahead five rounds to four. However, I gave the 10th, 11th and 12th rounds to Bradley. It was indeed a difficult to score.

Michael Sellers
Apple Valley, Calif.

MARQUEZ AVENGED?

Finally, Juan Manuel Marquez is sweetly and unexpectedly avenged. He is the most content winner in the outrageous Pacquiao-Bradley decision. Now Manny can feel immensely what Juan Manuel bitterly felt when he was robbed in their fight last November. Bradley will never have peace of mind with this win and cannot proudly walk with it wherever he goes. It was a lopsided fight from start to end. Pacquiao could've knocked out Bradley anywhere from the third round on. His generosity cost him his title. What Manny and any boxer learned from this: Never rely on the judges' decision; rely only on a decisive knockout.

Bonifacio H. Ayson
San Esteban, Ilocos Sur,
Philippines

SAME OLD GARBAGE

Blah blah blah … same old garbage. Everybody's outraged over a bad decision and all they talk about are the judges. Well, maybe it's not the judges but how the judges see and hear the fight. Why have them at ringside at all? Why can't each judge be secluded in a room by themselves with a big TV or TVs and no audio? How many respected judges have rendered bad decisions? Almost all of them, I would guess. Being right at ringside has too many distractions. Boxing has a bad reputation because the general sports fan believes the sport is fixed in favor of promoters. You shell out the big bucks (as I always do) and you get sub-par undercards and bad decisions. I love the sport and I put up with it; my friends — all big sports fans — don't. It's time for a change.

Don McMillan
Sarnia, Canada

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Manny Pacquiao (right) was on the short end of a bad decision against **Tim Bradley** but lost some sympathy because of inactivity in parts of the fight. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

BLAME TO SHARE

THE PACQUIAO-BRADLEY DECISION WAS BAD BUT THE LOSER CONTRIBUTED BY CRUISING DOWN THE STRETCH

By: **David Greisman**

We've heard ad nauseam about Manny Pacquiao's newfound dedication to religion. If only he had also taken the time to appease C.J. Ross and Duane Ford, the infallible deities of boxing judging who wanted nothing short of Pacquiao performing a ritual sacrifice of Timothy Bradley in order for them to provide him with the victory.

The joke before the fight was that Bradley would need to win close to 10 rounds just to get a draw. The joke after the fight — besides the jokes that were Ross and Ford's scorecards favoring Bradley — was that most saw Pacquiao win between eight to 10 rounds yet still heard Bradley announced as the new champion.

Pacquiao apparently needed all-out destruction just to get a decision. That's no surprise, given that boxing judges increasingly have about as much credibility in picking the right winner as the voters do on *American Idol*. A glance at their résumés shows that Ross and Ford also scored Custer's Last Stand for Custer, Tiger Woods' divorce for Tiger and *Titanic* for the Titanic.

That's not to say Pacquiao-Bradley was as one-sided as the battle between Bernard Hopkins and silence. Bradley was competitive, an impressive enough accomplishment against a fighter of Pacquiao's level, an even more impressive feat when you consider the state of Bradley's feet. He had an injured left foot and a sprained right ankle, leaving himself with less to stand on than Jose Sulaiman of the WBC trying to explain, well, anything.

That Pacquiao lost isn't his fault. That he put himself in a position to lose, however, is another

Perhaps boxing would be better off if it showcased young talent rather than recycled fighters like **Winky Wright** (right, against **Peter Quillin**). Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

issue. He made the kind of mistakes that Hopkins made against Jermain Taylor and Oscar De La Hoya made against Felix Trinidad, taking parts of rounds off before turning on the activity later, then, as De La Hoya did, tuning out in the final few rounds.

Gone was the callous closer who fought harder down the stretch against De La Hoya and Miguel Cotto. Instead of going "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" and tearing Bradley's sizable heart out, Pacquiao allowed Bradley back in, and in turn had the win taken away from him.

His bad decision paved the way for another. It was the judges who committed the robbery. But it was Pacquiao who left the door open.

* * *

You would hope that the recent run of big-name boxers testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs would bring reform to our beloved sport — but then again, this is boxing. If you hoped that, you're as delusional as Evander Holyfield if he still believes he can win the undisputed heavyweight title. Money is, always has been, and always will be the rule.

It's likely, then, that Lamont Peterson's positive test for synthetic testosterone and Andre Berto's positive test for nandrolone will do more harm than good. Boxing's powerbrokers are driven by profits. When fights are called off, they lose out. They have little incentive to clean up the sport, which means it's doubtful that we'll see promoters insist on more stringent drug tests.

Baseball didn't care about performance-enhancing drugs so long as rear-ends were in seats and the dollars were in coffers. Professional wrestling didn't care about drugs unless there was a congressional inquiry or if its superstars were dropping faster than Mike Jones after a Randall Bailey right hand.

Don't expect this sport to clean itself up. We've had generations of corruption, of filth flowing from sanctioning bodies, athletic commissions, promoters and managers. So the fighters are probably dirty now, too? This is the same sport in which a convicted killer became a successful promoter and a convicted rapist returned from prison to headline pay-per-views.

The only ratio that seems to matter in boxing isn't testosterone to epitestosterone, but revenues to expenses.

* * *

What's old is never new again when it comes to boxing. That's because what's old never goes away — it just sticks around and gets older. There's never enough room, then, for the new, for enough young fighters to get television spots and title shots, for them to attract the fandom that will bring them stardom.

Jermain Taylor has fought twice since December on *ShoBox: The New Generation*, a program meant for spotlighting potential prospects. A June card on Showtime had Antonio Tarver and Winky Wright in the final two bouts. HBO has put on fights this year with Bernard Hopkins and Erik Morales. The three biggest pay-per-view attractions, meanwhile, are Floyd Mayweather Jr., Manny Pacquiao and Miguel Cotto, three fighters nearing the end of their careers.

We need not relegate all relics. They do have names. That recognition can mean ratings and revenue. And some are still worth seeing, not just because they're still good for business, but also because they're still good boxers.

Yet this sport is wholly unprepared to answer the question of which young fighters will step up when the old guard steps down. Far too much time and money and attention are being invested, as always, in the short-term. There's never enough effort in growing for the future, not when they can rely on ticket speculators and television license fees to subsidize The Sweet Science.

We've become all-too accustomed to empty arenas, noncompetitive undercard fights and boxers being forced down our collective throat in mismatches and then challenging for belts without truly having earned that right — or our respect.

Boxing isn't dying, but in the United States, at least, it sure isn't doing itself any favors. Sadly that, too, is old news. ■

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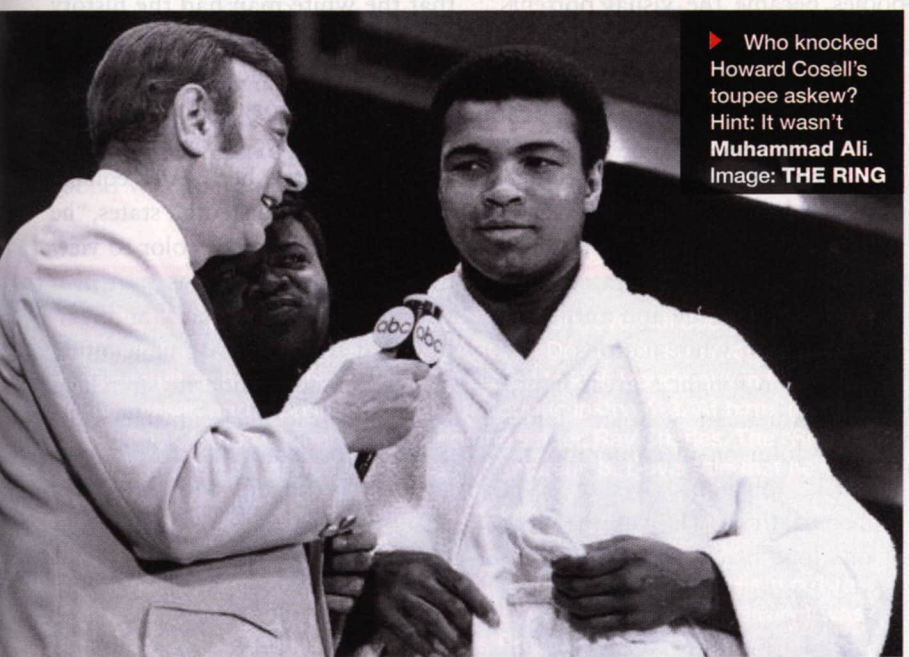
Nonito Donaire's greatest moment in sports outside boxing took place in a handball tournament. Image: **Ethan Miller-Getty Images**

GREATEST MOMENT IN SPORTS ... OUTSIDE OF BOXING

NONITO DONAIRE

"It was in high school [San Lorenzo High School in the San Francisco Bay area]. At lunchtime, they'd have handball tournaments that lasted about an hour. There were a lot of guys. Almost all of them were bigger than me. And some of them were good. But I made it to the finals and was up against this big tall kid. He was one of the guys who used to make fun of me all the time because I was so small. And I beat him. I've never won the lottery, but it must feel like what I felt that day. It felt so good. Then they gave me a T-shirt for winning the tournament. It was white with maroon trim, which were the school colors. And on the back, it said something about working hard to achieve your goals."



Who knocked Howard Cosell's toupee askew? Hint: It wasn't **Muhammad Ali.** Image: **THE RING**

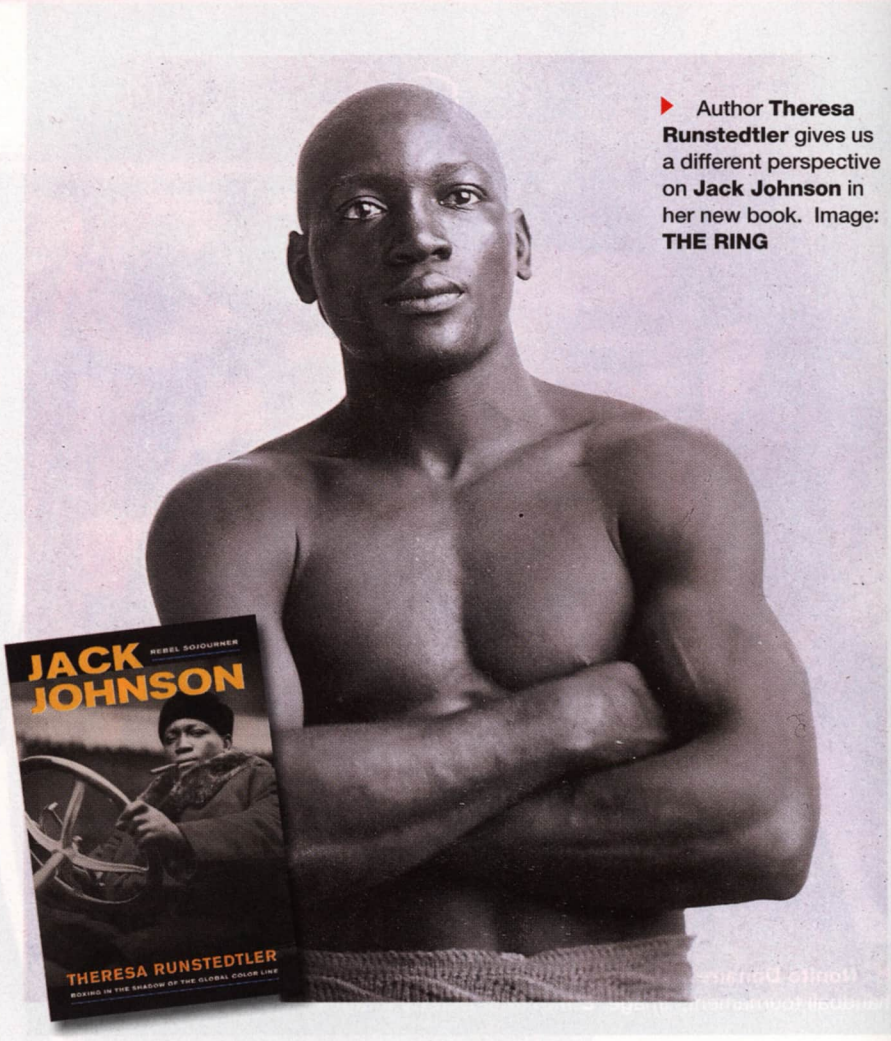
QUICK QUIZ

1. Which fighter knocked Howard Cosell's toupee askew?

2. Who was Sugar Ray Leonard named after?

3. When Evander Holyfield won the heavyweight championship by knocking out James "Buster" Douglas, trainer Lou Duva pointed toward the heavens as he entered the ring to embrace the new champion. What did Duva later say he was pointing at?

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON JOHNSON



Author **Theresa Runstedtler** gives us a different perspective on **Jack Johnson** in her new book. Image: **THE RING**

There's a tendency to assume that everything that could be written about Jack Johnson has already been published. Biographers like Geoffrey Ward and Randy Roberts have mined the mother lode of research material. Other historians have had their say. Johnson himself put his recollections into writing. But Theresa Runstedtler, who calls Johnson "the most famous discontent of his time," brings new perspectives to bear in *Jack Johnson: Rebel Sojourner* (University of California Press).

Runstedtler moves the study of Johnson's impact from race relations in the United States to the global debate over race and imperialism in the early 1900s. Two decades earlier, John L. Sullivan had elevated the heavyweight championship to an internationally recognized crown. Hence, Johnson wasn't just defying white America. He was, in the author's words, taking on the whole white world.

Runstedtler notes that, when Johnson journeyed to Australia in 1908 to challenge Tommy Burns for the heavyweight throne, "the athletic body had become an all important medium through which white men expressed their mutual interest in the maintenance of global white domination. The image of an ideal citizen was a muscular white male. Johnson and other black boxers publicly disrupted not only the mainstream ideals of the white male body and the white body politic but also the racial fictions of the degenerate stage darky. Thanks in part to the growing popularity of prizefighting, their powerful black bodies became the visual portents of racial Armageddon."

Johnson's victory over Burns, in Runstedtler's words, "helped to unleash a rising tide of color across the globe." And his 1910 decimation of James Jeffries in history's most anticipated prizefight up until that time inspired celebratory displays of racial pride and anti-colonialism in non-white nations.

"Johnson fought a great fight," African-American scholar James Weldon Johnson (a contemporary of Jack Johnson's) wrote after Johnson-Jeffries. "It was the fight of one lone black man against the world. Before the fight, the papers were full of statements to the effect that the white man had the history of Hastings and Agincourt behind him, while the black man had nothing but the history of the jungle."

Johnson gave people of color their own battle hero. And equally important, as Runstedtler states, "he encouraged people of color to view their own oppression as part of a worldwide race problem [and] empowered them to imagine a future of freedom and solidarity stretching beyond their local circumstances."

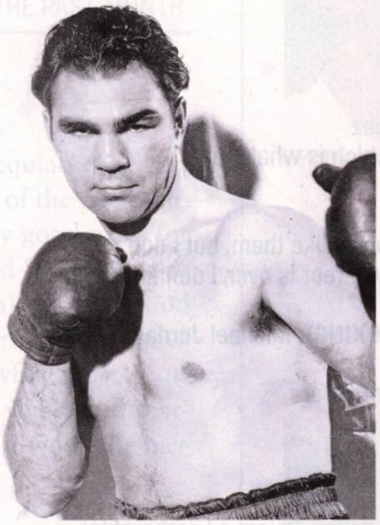
Jack Johnson: Rebel Sojourner is virtually devoid of ring action. It's not a "boxing book" per se. But it's well worth the read.

REMEMBRANCES FROM LEGENDARY CHAMPIONS

Jack Johnson, on Jess Willard knocking out two of his gold-capped teeth in their 1915 championship fight: "Jess ruined my golden smile. It was a left crack that did it. I felt them drop down on my tongue and my pride wouldn't let me spit them out. I knew what a howl would go up from the crowd if they saw them in the sunlight, so I did the next best thing. I swallowed them."

Jim Jeffries, on coming out of retirement to fight Jack Johnson: "There was no reason for my fighting again. I had a good home, many friends, a good business, everything a man could want. And I had been out of the ring for over five years. I had lost the ambition that a great champion must have. But the pressure became too great."

Max Schmeling, on walking to the ring for his first fight against Joe Louis: "Do you know what was on my mind? A curiosity and an excitement. I knew my body was right. I had thought something out. I had made a plan. Soon I was going to find out how good my thoughts were; whether I was right or wrong."



Max Schmeling's hunch was right in his first fight against **Joe Louis.** Image: **THE RING**

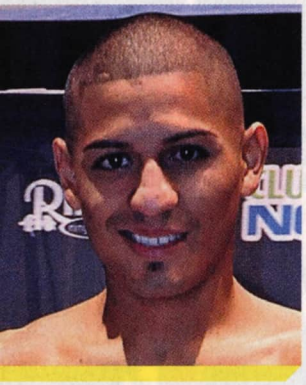
James Braddock, on signing to fight Max Baer for the heavyweight championship. Nine months earlier, Braddock (a fighter with 23 career losses) had been on welfare, collecting $24 a month. He beat Baer to claim the most coveted prize in sports: "That's the way it is in boxing. You get the breaks, and then sometimes you don't get the breaks. If you get the breaks, then you're getting a shot at the top. If you don't, you're at the bottom. I know a lot about both places."

QUIZ ANSWERS: **1.** In 1977, Scott LeDoux lost a controversial decision to Johnny Boudreaux in a bout televised by ABC. LeDoux was so enraged by the decision that he began shouting "fix" and tried to kick Boudreaux in the head. But he missed and repositioned Cosell's toupee instead. **2.** At birth, he was named Ray Charles Leonard in honor of the singer, Ray Charles. The "Sugar" was added after he started fighting as an amateur. **3.** Duva said that he was pointing to the spirit of Rocky Marciano.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Winks and Daggers: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*) was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

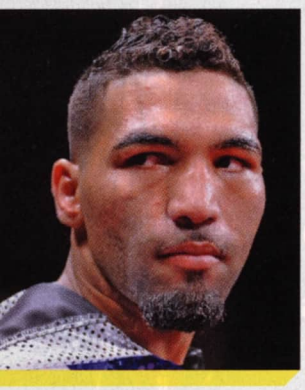


ABNER MARES

MUSIC: Larry Hernandez
CAR: Range Rover ("which is what I just purchased.")
FOOD: Mexican
TATOO(S): "I love tattoos, I like them, but I don't have a tattoo. After my career is over, I definitely will look into getting one."
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Michael Jordan
MOVIE: *A Bronx Tale*
VIDEO GAME: *Modern Warfare*

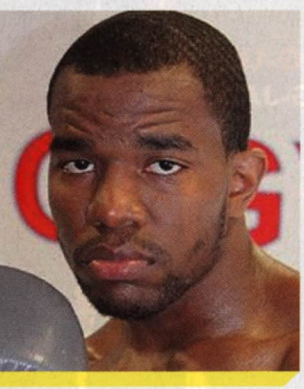
RICO RAMOS

MUSIC: Lil Wayne
CAR: Drives an Altima coupe, favors a Lamborghini
FOOD: Spaghetti, Pizza. "I know that I have to cut it all out. It's bad."
TATTOO(S): "I have a couple. My son's name is on my left arm – Letrell Ramos. My right arm has Suavecito (suave, smooth or nice)."
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Kobe Bryant
MOVIE: *Friday*
VIDEO GAME: *NBA 2K12*



EDWIN RODRIGUEZ

MUSIC: Kanye West
CAR: "I drive a Toyota Camry, 2010, but my favorite car is a Mercedes Benz."
FOOD: "Rice, beans and chicken. Spanish food."
TATTOO(S): "I don't have a tattoo, I am not planning on getting one. I do not like tattoos."
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): "The Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett, because he's No. 5, which is my favorite number. Great attitude."
MOVIE: *Gladiator*
VIDEO GAME: *Fight Night Round 5.* "My goal is to be in *Fight Night Round 6.*"

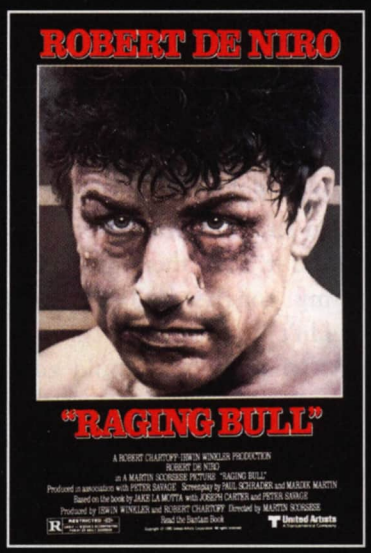


JESSE HART

MUSIC: Jay-Z. "That's all I listen to when I go into the ring. That's my man."
CAR: "I own at 2006 Buick Lacrosse. My dream car is a Dodge Challenger, which I will be getting shortly."
FOOD: "This pasta dish that my wife makes. It's a seafood linguini that has crab meat, shrimp, mussels, chopped-up clams."
TATOO(S): "I have a tattoo on my right arm. It says "Cyclone started it," and it has a pair of boxing gloves."
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): "LeBron James. But, of course, my dad, Eugene "Cyclone" Hart, is my favorite athlete in boxing."
MOVIE: "*Ali*, played by Will Smith."
VIDEO GAME: *Fight Night*

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

THIS MONTH:
THE BEST BOXING FILMS OF ALL TIME



1. ***RAGING BULL*** (1980) – Riveting and disturbing character study of Jake LaMotta

2. ***ROCKY*** (1976) – The all-time feel-good boxing film

3. ***SOMEBODY UP THERE LIKES ME*** (1956) – Underrated gem starring Paul Newman as Rocky Graziano

4. ***CINDERELLA MAN*** (2005) – Great film but shame on Ron Howard for maligning Max Baer

5. ***THE HARDER THEY FALL*** (1956) – An unsettling look at boxing's underbelly

6. ***WHEN WE WERE KINGS*** (1996) – A vivid close-up look at "The Rumble in the Jungle"

7. ***ROCKY II*** (1979) – The protagonist wins the championship in a fine sequel

8. ***BODY AND SOUL*** (1947) – Dark film about a fighter succumbing to corruption

9. ***THE FIGHTER*** (2010) – The film captures the challenges Micky Ward had to face

10. ***THE CHAMP*** (1931) – Jackie Cooper gives one of the greatest performances by a child

FIVE MORE: *Million Dollar Baby* (2004); *Requiem for a Heavyweight* (1962); *Hard Times* (1975); *Rocky III* (1983); and *Fat City* (1972)

NOTE: The classics *On the Waterfront* (1954) and *From Here to Eternity* (1953) aren't considered boxing films here. Michael Rosenthal can be reached at mrosenthal@ringtv.com

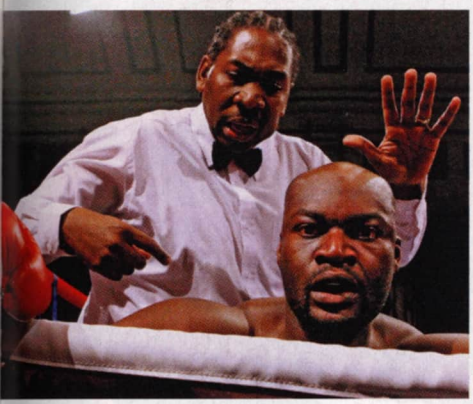
GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao ended up Nos. 1 and 2 on Forbes magazine's list of the 100 highest-paid athletes for 2011. That's really good news for the fighters, who made $85 million and $62 million to top No. 3 Tiger Woods ($59.4 million). It's also good news for boxing. I suspect casual sports fans will have read the Forbes report and decided what most of us already know — that boxing is more viable and marketable than many assume. Of course, it would be nice if more fighters were on the list.



British heavyweight **Larry Olubamiwo** admitted to using PEDs. Nothing was going to help him here, though: He is being counted out against **John McDermott** early last year. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

BAD

You think the fact Lamont Peterson and Andre Berto tested positive for elevated testosterone and traces of Nandrolone was bad? Consider Larry Olubamiwo. The British heavyweight tested positive for the blood-boosting drug EPO following a fight against Sam Sexton. Olubamiwo, 33, then admitted to using 13 — count 'em 13 — banned substances over a six-year period. UK officials suspended him for four years and declared that he has forfeited all his fights — both amateur and pro — since the beginning of 2006.

WORSE

I remember waiting in a long line to greet LeRoy Neiman at a special one-day gallery of his works in L.A. When I finally made it to the head of line and reminded him that I was a boxing writer, his eyes lit up. We talked boxing for a full 10 minutes, upsetting everyone who waited behind me. The man loved the sport. I always liked his paintings, which I found spontaneous and alive. And his images helped promote boxing. I also always liked Neiman, who seemed to be nice to everyone. He will be deeply missed.

The crowd couldn't help **Manny Pacquiao** after his controversial loss to **Timothy Bradley** on June 9 in Las Vegas. Image: **Jeff Bottari-Getty Images**

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS.
THIS MONTH: DID TIM BRADLEY DESERVE THE DECISION OVER MANNY PACQUIAO?

THE PERCENTAGES:

YES	**7.0**
NO	**87.7**
IT COULD HAVE GONE EITHER WAY	**5.3**

***NOTE:** 19,880 READERS VOTED IN THE POLL*

Roy Jones Jr. (left) told THE RING that **James Toney** was the best overall fight he ever faced. Image: **Holly Stein-Getty Images**

ROY JONES JR.

By **Lem Satterfield**

Roy Jones Jr. arguably was the most gifted fighter of his generation, with athleticism, quickness and power that made him the best fighter in the world and all but unbeatable in his prime.

The future Hall of Famer knocked out his first 17 opponents as a professional. He was 49-1 (with 38 knockouts) at one point, his loss being a disqualification for punching Montell Griffin while he was down that he later avenged.

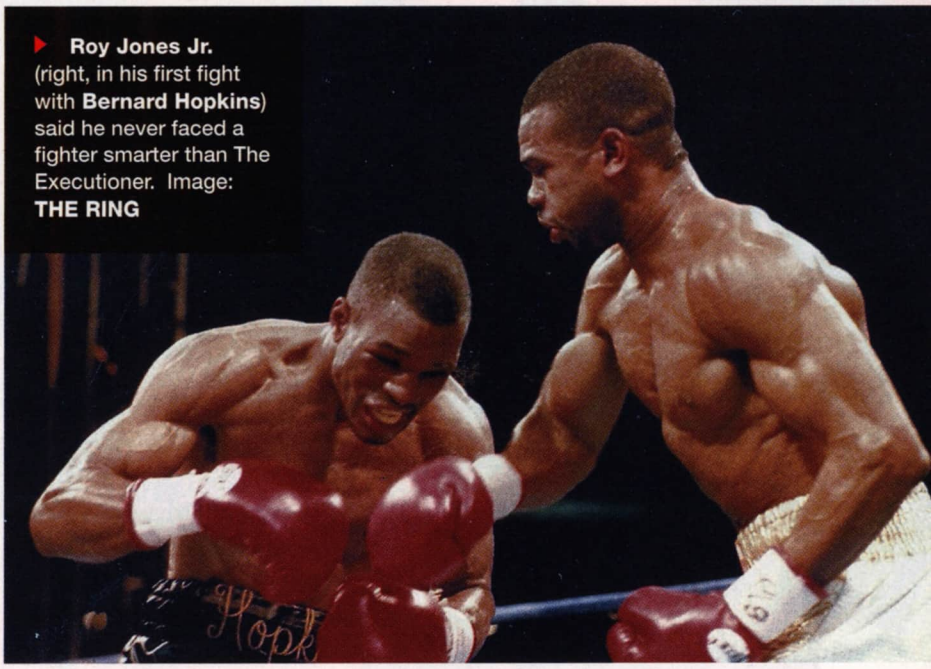
And he won nine titles in four weight classes. That includes a one-sided decision over John Ruiz, making him the first one-time middleweight to win the heavyweight title in more than 100 years.

Jones (55-8, 40 KOs) defeated James Toney, Bernard Hopkins, Montell Griffin, Lou Del Valle, Reggie Johnson, Ruiz and Antonio Tarver to win his titles.

The Floridian became mortal only when he began to slow down in his mid-30s, losing consecutive fights to Tarver, Glen Johnson and Tarver again (the first two by knockout) and going 6-7 in his last 13 fights.

Still, when he finally hangs up the gloves, Jones will be remembered as one of the greatest fighters of his or any time.

Below, Jones lists the best fighters he has faced in 10 key categories.



Roy Jones Jr. (right, in his first fight with **Bernard Hopkins**) said he never faced a fighter smarter than The Executioner. Image: **THE RING**

BEST OVERALL: JAMES TONEY

"By far. James Toney had offense and knocked out a lot of guys. He made them fight. He was calm. He can go 12 rounds out of shape because he's so relaxed in the ring. He has it down to a science to where he can come into the ring out of shape and still win a fight. Yet he has that hunger in the ring. He is just so relaxed and so calm and low key that he can just fight all day. At the same time, he's a devastating puncher and won't let you hit him flush. James Toney has every aspect of the game down pretty well, more than most guys do."

BEST BOXER: TONEY

"He had the best overall game. A well-rounded game. He was the bigger version of Floyd Mayweather, I would say. He wasn't quite as mobile, but he fought the same, typical fight."

BEST DEFENSE: TONEY

"He has that shoulder, and he would protect his chin like a mongoose. You couldn't land that punch because he protected that chin, as I said before, like a bigger version of Floyd Mayweather."

BEST JAB: VIRGIL HILL

"That was probably Virgil's best punch and probably one of his hardest damn punches. He had a good jab. How did I get in the body shot to knock him out? I had to make him keep the jab at home and make him use it for defense by throwing hard punches. But his jab was harder than his right hand."

BEST PUNCHER: MERQUI SOSA

"Merqui Sosa threw an overhand right hand at me that, if he would have hit me, I probably would have wanted to start trying to kill off his family members. It was just coincidental that it missed me, but when it flew by my face, it was like 'whoosh!' I was like, 'I'm fixing to kill him.' (Laughs.)"

STRONGEST: EDDIE EVANS

"I fought a guy named Eddie Evans, who was a really strong guy, earlier in my career. Eddie Evans hit me so damn hard that I still wanted to punch him three or four more times. I had to hit him enough times to make up for the one time that he hit me. I mean, he was a really, really, physically, a strong guy."

FASTEST FEET: ROLLIN WILLIAMS

"I fought a guy named Rollin Williams right around the same time or before I fought Eddie Evans. I think he beat Frankie Liles and they robbed him. When I fought him, that son of a gun had the fastest feet of anyone that I had faced. It took me four rounds to even put a glove on him." [Jones knocked Williams out in the fourth.]

FASTEST HANDS: WILLIAMS

He wouldn't leave me a lot. I would try to use counter rights and counter lefts and he wouldn't give me nothing to counter because he brought his hands back so quickly.

BEST CHIN: TONEY

By far, that would be James Toney. I whacked him with everything that I had. He went down, but he got back up. He wouldn't go out. I hit him with everything that I could, over and over again, and he kept right on coming.

SMARTEST: BERNARD HOPKINS

The smartest fighter I fought, by far, that's Bernard Hopkins. He's crafty, cagey and he's the type of guy that didn't play by any rules. Anything he could do, that's how he was going to win. He didn't care about fighting fair and he wasn't going to fight you fair. He don't care about it being a clean win or he don't care about it looking right. Bernard Hopkins just wants to win. ■

RECIPES FOR FAILURE

By **T.K. Stewart**

"It's a minefield out there." That's what you may hear fighters saying these days when it comes to the topic of dietary supplementation and performance enhancing drugs. With the recent positive steroid test results of high-profile titlists Lamont Peterson and Andre Berto, the subject is currently front and center in the world of professional boxing.

When it comes to career progression, fighters at all ability levels search for every conceivable advantage. They employ strength and conditioning coaches, keep abreast of cutting edge training and recovery methods and consume energy-rich foods full of the vitamins and minerals their depleted bodies require in order to maintain training regimens that can last for months.

Fighters looking for somewhere to turn in order to gain that elusive edge often consume the same protein powders, energy drinks and over-the-counter supplements the general public does. There are literally thousands of nutritional mixtures that line the shelves of grocery stores, pharmacies and health food outlets that promise to reduce body fat, promote muscle growth and increase energy.

However, the problem with many of these legal substances is that they contain ingredients (often illegal ones) that will trigger a positive result on increasingly sophisticated anti-doping tests.

The Food and Drug Administration's regulatory framework, which was instituted years ago, did not foresee the proliferation of sometimes dangerous substances under the guise of "healthy, nutritional supplements."

Incredibly, there is no requirement for supplement manufacturers to prove a product's safety and efficacy prior to being sold to consumers. A recent study of U.S. supplements by British-based HFL Sport Science showed that 25 percent of the 58 U.S. supplements sampled contained unlisted steroids and 11 percent contained unlisted stimulants. A supplement will not usually be subject to further scrutiny unless a complaint about it is registered with the FDA.

It is this very scenario that Berto's advisor Victor Conte alluded to recently when Berto failed his drug test. Conte believes that Berto somehow ingested a legal supplement that was contaminated with an illegal substance. Roy Jones Jr. claims a legal supplement also caused him to fail a drug test when his urine sample tested positive for the steroid androstenedione after his light heavyweight title defense against Richard Hall in 2000. Jones maintains he consumed the popular supplement known as "Ripped Fuel" and blamed the result on that product. Hall also tested positive for the same steroid but he never offered an explanation for his test failure.

Andre Berto said he failed a drug test because he ingested a contaminated legal supplement. He and his peers simply must be more careful. Image: **Ethan Miller-Getty Images**

Fighters today must take personal responsibility for everything they ingest and also be aware that simply because a product purports to be reputable and legal does not make it so.

Travis Tygart, who oversaw the testing for the Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Shane Mosley bout in 2010, is the CEO of the United States Anti Doping Agency (USADA) and has been railing against unscrupulous supplement manufacturers for years.

"Unfortunately, you can't just read the labels with these products," Tygart said. "You have to be

A RECENT STUDY OF U.S. SUPPLEMENTS BY BRITISH-BASED HFL SPORT SCIENCE SHOWED THAT 25 PERCENT OF THE 58 U.S. SUPPLEMENTS SAMPLED CONTAINED UNLISTED STEROIDS AND 11 PERCENT CONTAINED UNLISTED STIMULANTS.

informed, you have to go to your doctor and then decide if the risks of these products are worth any of the benefit they might claim."

The list of banned substances by the World Anti Doping Agency is nine pages long and contains hundreds of substances that include everything from steroids to common asthma medication ingredients to substances in today's most popular energy drinks, which contain different mixtures and proprietary blends that the USADA notes can cause positive anti-doping tests.

So what is the answer for fighters in this day and age? Justin Fortune, who once fought Lennox Lewis and now owns and operates Fortune Gym in Los Angeles, believes he has the no-nonsense answer.

"There is no magic pill you can take," he said. "It's all about hard work and eating right. Eat the right foods, fruits, vegetables and train your guts out. None of that has ever been a secret. All of this stuff out there now is dangerous.

"All you've gotta do is clean up your body, eat right, train, and that's that. The problem these days is people make it more complicated than it has to be and that's when they get into trouble." ■

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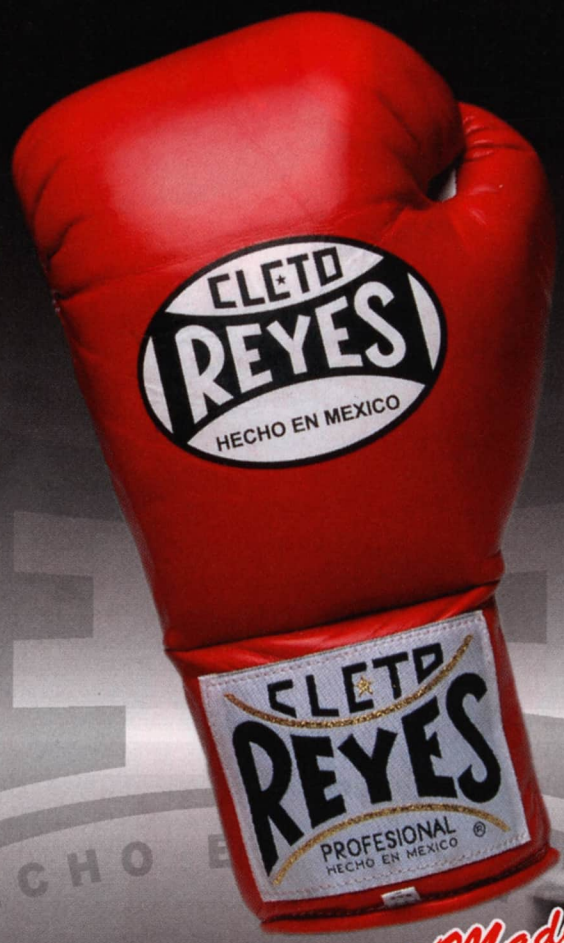

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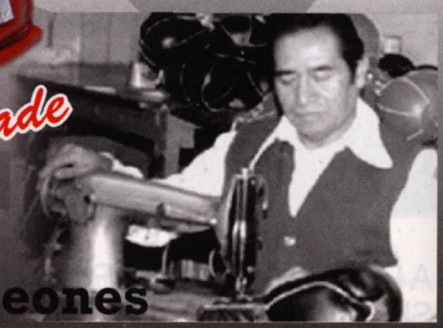

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THE FIGHTER REMAINS

By **Brian Harty** Image: **Ethan Miller-Getty Images**

On the same day that word of Johnny Tapia's death travelled through the boxing world in a wave of grief tempered somewhat by its lack of astonishment, the news about Paul Williams blind-sided everyone.

It was around 8 a.m. on Sunday, May 27, and Williams was in Marietta, Ga., to attend his brother's wedding later that day. The police report said his motorcycle was going about 75 mph when he steered wide to avoid cars on a curve and crashed into an embankment. Williams landed on his back, crushing his spine at the T6 vertebra and paralyzing his body from mid-torso downward. He was wearing a helmet; he suffered no other injuries.

At the time, Williams was 3½ months from a junior middleweight title shot against Saul "Canelo" Alvarez in a pay-per-view main event. It would've been the second step in his attempt to regain prominence after a disastrous KO loss to Sergio Martinez and a wildly unpopular gift-decision over Erislandy Lara, which together had left a distinct air of toxicity around Williams' stock. His subsequent win over Nobuhiro Ishida was solid but still left a lot to be answered.

Of course that particular future will remain unseen. The record will stand at 41-2, with 27 knockouts.

In the ring, "The Punisher" was the definition of active, routinely throwing more than 1,000 punches in a single fight. He had a bouncy, rhythmic style that seemed equally relaxed and relentless, punches churning from all angles. It had an otherworldly look due to his impossibly lanky 6-foot-2 frame and telescopic reach, advantages which he was often critcized for underutilizing. Williams was all about *motion*.

The first words to come out of the hospital were remarkably casual. "I've got a little spine injury, or whatever," Williams told The Associated Press. "But they're working on that."

In another interview, he declared that if he couldn't box, he'd become a stand-up comedian. Given the 10 percent chance of ever walking again quoted by his doctor, it's a promising start. Any talent for gallows humor aside, though, Williams has vowed to defy the odds.

"He's in complete denial," said Williams' advisor and trainer, George Peterson — and he meant that in a good way.

Paul Williams, after all, is a world-class boxer by trade. His accident is a reminder of the absurd weaknesses we all share — sharpen a stick and poke us, we bleed; drop us on a rock, we break — but his recovery will require the qualities particular to fighters.

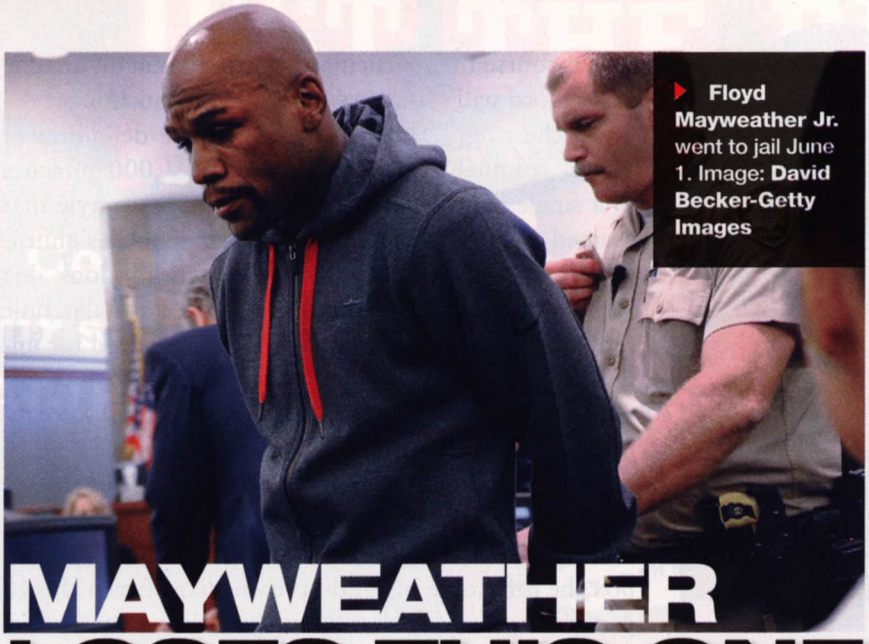
"I've seen him as the underdog so many times," said Peterson, "when Paul says he's going to beat this, I gotta get on the bandwagon."

Both triumph and setback are indeed familiar. Hoping that his signature win over Antonio Margarito in 2007 had given him the keys to superstardom, Williams instead got a front-row seat to a business lesson and found himself without an opponent. In his next fight, against Carlos Quintana, he lost for the first time.

Williams avenged the Quintana loss with a first-round KO and went on to gain wins over Verno Phillips, Winky Wright, Kermit Cintron and Martinez, somewhere along the way acquiring the moniker of "Most Avoided Man in Boxing." The same virtues that earned him the label, said promoter Dan Goossen, have "blossomed to extremes unimaginable" following the accident.

Barely a week after an operation to stabilize his upper spine, Williams had begun to work, doing pull-ups, push-ups, riding a specialized stationary bicycle and even scuba diving in the rehabilitation center. Doing, in other words, what he knows.

"This is reality. This is life," said Goossen. "It's just taking on the form of another fight." ■



Floyd Mayweather Jr. went to jail June 1. Image: David Becker-Getty Images

MAYWEATHER LOSES THIS ONE

By **Brian Harty**

June 1 was payday for the piper, so **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** surrendered himself at the Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas to begin his 87-day stay for domestic violence. After 10 days, his lawyers were asking that he be shifted to house-arrest, as Mayweather, who is kept separate from the general population and given one hour per day out of his cell, was complaining of deteriorating health due to insufficient food, water and exercise. The request was denied. ...

In May is was revealed that *perro perdido* **Alfredo Angulo** had been locked up at ICE's detention center in El Centro, Calif., for several months, pending a hearing to resolve "immigration issues." Angulo reportedly made use of his time by becoming an advocate for the hundreds of others detained there, providing education and an avenue to legal representation. ...

Perhaps filling the void left by "Money" Mayweather, trainer **Freddie "Rolls" Roach** offered a $1,000 bonus to any sparring partner who could drop **Amir Khan** in the gym. He then trickled down more cash in Las Vegas immediately after the **Pacquiao-Bradley** fight, spending $26,000 for a private jet to get him to Canastota, N.Y., for his own induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. ...

David Haye released an iPhone game in which players could decapitate **David Chisora** with a bottle, a reference to their press-conference brawl in February. It was given a 9+ age rating for "Frequent/Intense Cartoon or Fantasy Violence." The game, not the brawl. ...

Evander Holyfield's 54,000-square-foot house in Atlanta was sold at a public auction for $7.5 million, but it wasn't nearly enough to cover the $14 million he reportedly owes the bank. As reported by TMZ, the IRS also wants more than 200 grand in back taxes and the Deptartment of Human Services is after him for over $370,000 in child support. ...

On the more positive side of wedlock, **Carl Froch** announced that he intends to marry everyone's favorite cutaway, model **Rachael Cordingley**. ...

Cuban heavyweight **Teofilo Stevenson** was once offered a fortune to face **Muhammad Ali** but refused, saying, "What is one million dollars compared to the love of eight million Cubans?" Stevenson won gold medals in three separate Olympic Games, might have won a fourth if not for the boycott in 1984, and was arguably the greatest amateur heavyweight of all time. He died on June 11 at the age of 60 (see Page 46). ...

Thai junior featherweight **Thanthong Kiattaweesuk** was tragically killed, along with his wife and twin 6-year-old children, when he lost control of his car in a rainstorm and hit a tree. He was undefeated, with a record of 24-0 (17 KOs), and was ranked No. 1 by the IBF. ...

Artist **LeRoy Neiman** also passed away in June. Inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2007 for his inseparable ties to the sport, Neiman's vibrant paintings were featured, among other places, on posters for Ali-Frazier and, on several occasions, the cover of THE RING. He even appeared in four *Rocky* movies. He was 91 (see Page 67). ...

And finally, departures of a more bearable sort. Former RING champion and all-around legend **"Sugar" Shane Mosley** announced his retirement on Twitter in early June and was immediately followed by former opponents **Ronald "Winky" Wright** and **Antonio Margarito**. The trio of gunslingers walked into the sunset with a combined record of 135-22-2 (91 knockouts) and 59 years of pro experience between them. ... ■

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BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

HOLLY PUSKA

HEIGHT: 5-foot-7
WEIGHT: 130 pounds
MEASUREMENTS: 34-27-36
STANCE: Orthodox
REACH: 24 inches
FAVORITE BOXER: Floyd Mayweather Jr.
CURRENT LOCATION: North Port, Fla.
WHERE YOU'VE SEEN HER: Maxim Espanol, Bling Rockets Mag, Mixed Mag, Kandy Mag, Natural Muscle Mag, Vincent Mag, MMA Sports Mag
BOOKING INFO:
hollypuska88@gmail.com

Image: Justin Price

HOLLY PUSKA

Image: Keith Isaac

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

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Image: **Alex Tirado**

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. looked like a champion in his knockout victory over **Andy Lee** on June 16 in El Paso, Texas. Image: **Chris Farina-Top Rank**

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH:

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.

By **Michael Rosenthal**

A victory over Andy Lee on June 16 in El Paso, Texas — even a sensational one — doesn't prove that Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. has become an elite fighter. Lee is solid but nothing special.

That said, it's getting more and more difficult to dismiss Junior as an over-protected pretender who is riding the coattails of his father. Chavez demonstrated again against Lee that he's becoming a very good all-around fighter. He is big (unusually so for a 160-pounder), strong and extremely tough. He definitely has daddy's chin.

Chavez is more than that, though: He's also good. He fights with poise and obviously has learned a great deal under trainer Freddie Roach. The methodical manner in which he broke down Lee — and then brutally stopped him in the seventh round — was impressive. Afterward, the Englishman, his face battered, said what most of us were thinking.

"I got no excuses; he's a good fighter," Lee said. "My punches had no effect on him; I couldn't hold him off. A lot of punches I threw could've hurt a lot of people but he just walked through them.

"He's lot better than people give him credit for. He's champion for a reason."

Chavez's next opponent? Apparently Sergio Martinez. Suddenly that seems to be a good matchup. ■

POUND FOR POUND: Although the scorecards proclaimed a split-decision win for Tim Bradley (No. 8 last month) over Manny Pacquiao (tied for No. 2 with Floyd Mayweather Jr. last month), THE RING Editorial Board sided with the vast majority of observers who saw the real result: a clear win for Pacquiao. No changes were made.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Carl Froch (No. 2 last month) scored a sensational fifth-round knockout against Romanian-Canadian Lucian Bute (No. 1 at the time) in Nottingham, England. Froch took the No. 1 spot beneath Andre Ward, while Bute fell past Robert Stieglitz to No. 3.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Peter Quillin (unrated last month) outpointed a still-dangerous Winky Wright to enter the ratings at No. 10, pushing Sebastian Zbik off the list.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Paul Williams (No. 8 last month) was removed from the ratings following his tragic motorcycle accident (*see Page 25*). Alfredo Angulo and Cornelius Bundrage (Nos. 9 and 10, respectively, last month) both moved up a notch, while Austin Trout entered at No. 10 following his convincing win over Delvin Rodriguez (unrated).

WELTERWEIGHTS: Pacquiao retained his No. 1 rating after the "loss" to Tim Bradley, who nevertheless made a good showing and entered the list at No. 8. Vyacheslav Senchenko (No. 10 last month) was pushed out. Mike Jones (No. 6 last month) dropped out after being stopped in the 11th round by hard-luck slugger Randall Bailey (unrated last month), who cracked the ratings at No. 9.

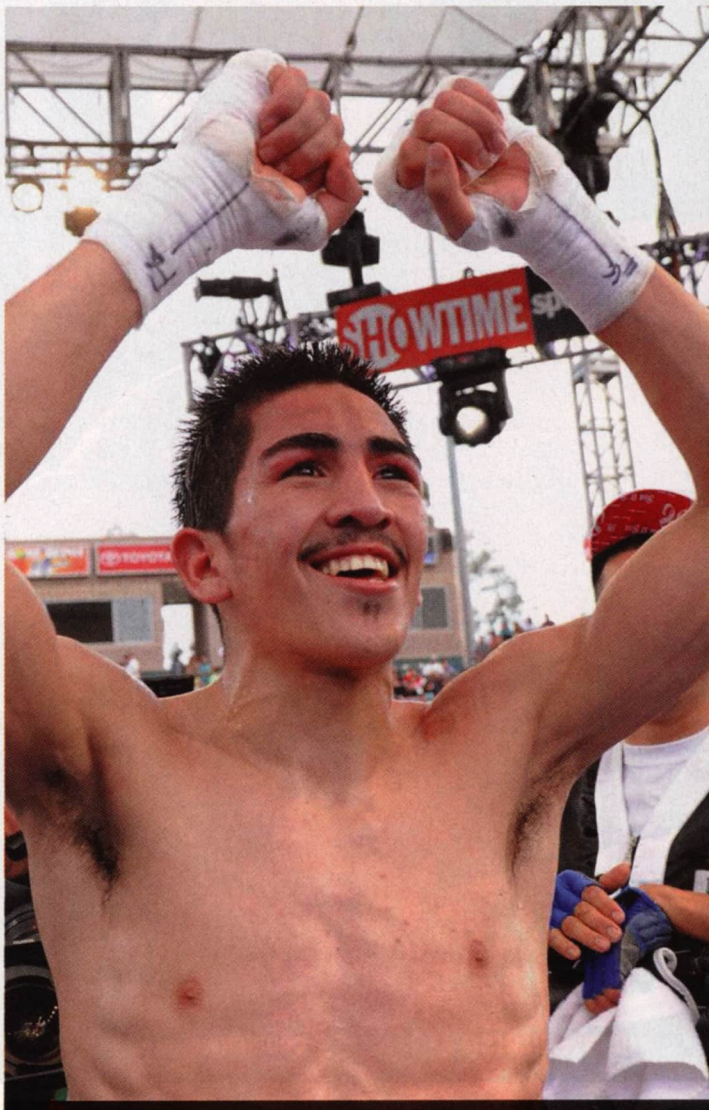
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.



Leo Santa Cruz won the vacant IBF bantamweight title and the hearts of many fans with his one-sided victory over **Vusi Malinga** on June 2 in Carson, Calif. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

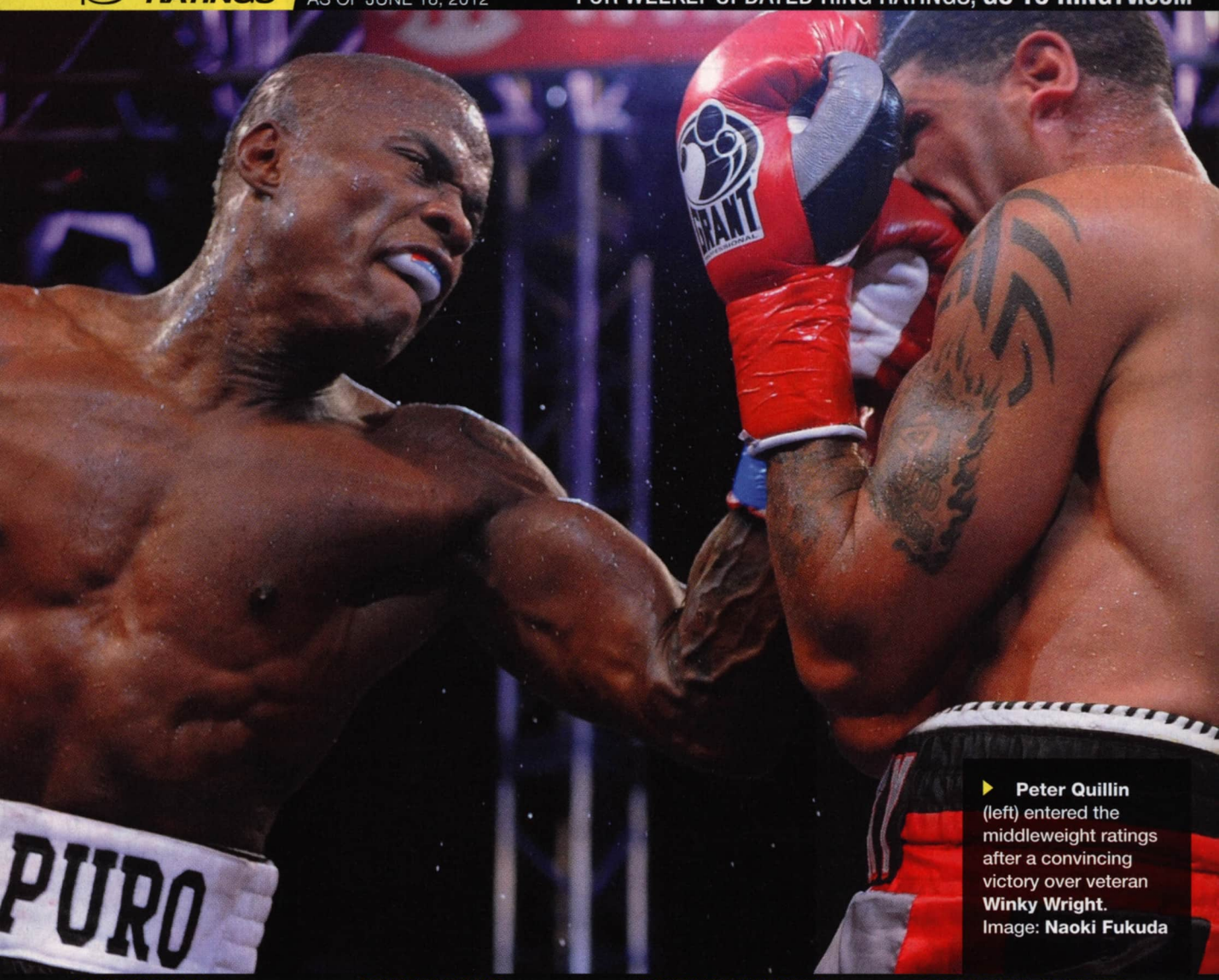
BANTAMWEIGHTS: Leo Santa Cruz (No. 9 last month) jumped two spots to No. 7 after dominating unrated Vusi Malinga to win the IBF title.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Juan Palacios (No. 5 last month) dropped to No. 7 after only managing a draw in his native Nicaragua against unrated Nerys Espinoza. ■



Peter Quillin (left) entered the middleweight ratings after a convincing victory over veteran **Winky Wright**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C	**WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**	Ukraine | 57-3-0 (50 KOs)
1.	**VITALI KLITSCHKO**	Ukraine | 44-2-0 (40 KOs)
2.	**ALEXANDER POVETKIN**	Russia | 24-0-0 (16 KOs)
3.	**TOMASZ ADAMEK**	Poland | 46-2-0 (28 KOs)
4.	**KUBRAT PULEV**	Bulgaria | 16-0-0 (8 KOs)
5.	**ROBERT HELENIUS**	Finland | 17-0-0 (11 KOs)
6.	**DENIS BOYTSOV**	Russia | 31-0-0 (25 KOs)
7.	**RUSLAN CHAGAEV**	Uzbekistan | 29-2-1 (18 KOs)
8.	**CHRIS ARREOLA**	U.S. | 35-2-0 (30 KOs)
9.	**TYSON FURY**	UK | 18-0-0 (13 KOs)
10.	**TONY THOMPSON**	U.S. | 36-2-0 (24 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C	**YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**	Cuba | 26-1-0 (13 KOs)
1.	**MARCO HUCK**	Germany | 34-2-1 (25 KOs)
2.	**KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**	Poland | 46-2-1 (33 KOs)
3.	**STEVE CUNNINGHAM**	U.S. | 24-4-0 (12 KOs)
4.	**OLA AFOLABI**	UK | 19-2-4 (9 KOs)
5.	**DENIS LEBEDEV**	Russia | 24-1-0 (18 KOs)
6.	**ANTONIO TARVER**	U.S. | 29-6-1 (20 KOs)
7.	**GUILLERMO JONES**	Panama | 38-3-2 (30 KOs)
8.	**LATEEF KAYODE**	Nigeria | 18-0-1 (14 KOs)
9.	**GIACOBBE FRAGOMENI**	Italy | 29-3-2 (12 KOs)
10.	**MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**	Poland | 27-0-0 (20 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C	**CHAD DAWSON**	U.S. | 31-1-0 (17 KOs)
1.	**BERNARD HOPKINS**	U.S. | 52-6-2 (32 KOs)
2.	**JEAN PASCAL**	Canada | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
3.	**TAVORIS CLOUD**	U.S. | 24-0-0 (19 KOs)
4.	**NATHAN CLEVERLY**	UK | 24-0-0 (11 KOs)
5.	**ZSOLT ERDEI**	Hungary | 33-0-0 (18 KOs)
6.	**GABRIEL CAMPILLO**	Spain | 21-4-1 (8 KOs)
7.	**BEIBUT SHUMENOV**	Kazakhstan | 13-1-0 (8 KOs)
8.	**KARO MURAT**	Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
9.	**MIKKEL KESSLER**	Denmark | 45-2-0 (34 KOs)
10.	**ISAAC CHILEMBA**	Malawi | 19-1-1 (9 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C	**ANDRE WARD**	U.S. | 25-0-0 (13 KOs)
1.	**CARL FROCH**	UK | 29-2-0 (21 KOs)
2.	**ROBERT STIEGLITZ**	Russia | 42-2-0 (23 KOs)
3.	**LUCIAN BUTE**	Romania | 30-1-0 (24 KOs)
4.	**THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**	South Africa | 19-0-1 (13 KOs)
5.	**SAKIO BIKA**	Cameroon | 30-5-2 (21 KOs)
6.	**GEORGE GROVES**	UK | 14-0-0 (11 KOs)
7.	**GLEN JOHNSON**	Jamaica | 51-16-2 (35 KOs)
8.	**ANDRE DIRRELL**	U.S. | 20-1-0 (14 KOs)
9.	**ARTHUR ABRAHAM**	Armenia | 34-3-0 (27 KOs)
10.	**EDWIN RODRIGUEZ**	Dominican Rep. | 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C SERGIO MARTINEZ
Argentina | 49-2-2 (28 KOs)

1. **FELIX STURM**
Germany | 37-2-2 (16 KOs)
2. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia | 27-1-0 (15 KOs)
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.**
Mexico | 46-0-1 (32 KOs)
4. **DMITRY PIROG**
Russia | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
5. **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM**
France | 27-0-0 (17 KOs)
6. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
UK | 28-4-0 (19 KOs)
7. **MARTIN MURRAY**
UK | 24-0-1 (10 KOs)
8. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
Kazakhstan | 23-0-0 (20 KOs)
9. **GRZEGORZ PROKSA**
Poland | 27-1-0 (20 KOs)
10. **PETER QUILLIN**
U.S. | 27-0-0 (20 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C VACANT

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico | 37-3-0 (30 KOs)
3. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 40-0-1 (29 KOs)
4. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
U.S. | 32-0-0 (20 KOs)
5. **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba | 16-1-1 (11 KOs)
6. **CARLOS MOLINA**
Mexico | 19-5-2 (6 KOs)
7. **JAMES KIRKLAND**
U.S. | 31-1-0 (27 KOs)
8. **ALFREDO ANGULO**
Mexico | 20-2-0 (17 KOs)
9. **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE**
U.S. | 31-4-0 (18 KOs)
10. **AUSTIN TROUT**
U.S. | 25-0-0 (14 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C VACANT

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-4-2 (38 KOs)
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
3. **VICTOR ORTIZ**
U.S. | 29-3-2 (22 KOs)
4. **ANDRE BERTO**
U.S. | 28-1-0 (22 KOs)
5. **KELL BROOK**
UK | 27-0-0 (18 KOs)
6. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
U.S. | 31-4-0 (7 KOs)
7. **JAN ZAVECK**
Slovenia | 32-2-0 (18 KOs)
8. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. 29-0-0 (12 KOs)
9. **RANDALL BAILEY**
U.S. | 43-7-0 (37 KOs)
10. **SELCUK AYDIN**
Turkey | 23-0-0 (17 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C VACANT

1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs)
2. **LAMONT PETERSON**
U.S. | 30-1-1 (15 KOs)
3. **AMIR KHAN**
UK | 26-2-0 (18 KOs)
4. **DANNY GARCIA**
U.S. | 23-0-0 (14 KOs)
5. **ZAB JUDAH**
U.S. | 42-7-0 (29 KOs)
6. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
Argentina | 30-2-0 (28 KOs)
7. **MIKE ALVARADO**
U.S. | 33-0-0 (23 KOs)
8. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs)
9. **MARCOS MAIDANA**
Argentina | 31-3-0 (28 KOs)
10. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico | 52-8-0 (36 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico | 27-2-1 (20 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico | 31-3-0 (13 KOs)
3. **RICKY BURNS**
UK | 34-2-0 (9 KOs)
4. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
UK | 33-1-0 (24 KOs)
5. **JOHN MURRAY**
UK | 31-2-0 (18 KOs)
6. **JOHN MOLINA**
U.S. | 23-1-0 (19 KOs)
7. **RICHARD ABRIL**
Cuba | 17-3-1 (8 KOs)
8. **HANK LUNDY**
U.S. 22-1-1 (11 KOs)
9. **GAVIN REES**
UK | 36-1-1 (17 KOs)
10. **SHARIF BOGERE**
Uganda | 23-0-0 (15 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C VACANT

1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
Japan | 18-0-0 (15 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
Mexico | 25-1-1 (16 KOs)
3. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. 23-0-0 (19 KOs)
4. **TAKAHIRO AO**
Japan | 23-2-1 (10 KOs)
5. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico | 25-1-1 (16 KOs)
6. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
U.S. | 22-0-0 (8 KOs)
7. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 19-2-0 (10 KOs)
8. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
Mexico | 29-1-0 (19 KOs)
9. **JORGE SOLIS**
Mexico | 40-4-2 (29 KOs)
10. **BRYAN VAZQUEZ**
Costa Rica | 28-0-0 (14 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C VACANT

1. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba | 21-0-0 (16 KOs)
2. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico | 38-11-2 (26 KOs)
3. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia | 47-0-2 (22 KOs)
4. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico | 52-7-0 (45 KOs)
5. **MIKEY GARCIA**
U.S. | 28-0-0 (24 KOs)
6. **BILL DIB**
Australia | 34-1-0 (21 KOs)
7. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico | 31-2-0 (28 KOs)
8. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico | 43-4-0 (35 KOs)
9. **CELESTINO CABALLERO**
Panama | 36-4-0 (23 KOs)
10. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan | 30-4-0 (13 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C VACANT

1. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan | 39-4-3 (24 KOs)
2. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 10-0-0 (8 KOs)
3. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 28-1-0 (18 KOs)
4. **AKIFUMA SHIMODA**
Japan | 25-3-1 (11 KOs)
5. **P. KRATINGDAENGGYM**
Thailand | 47-2-0 (33 KOs)
6. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
South Africa | 26-3-2 (14 KOs)
7. **ABNER MARES**
U.S. | 24-0-1 (13 KOs)
8. **TAKALANI NDLOVU**
South Africa | 33-7-0 (18 KOs)
9. **STEVE MOLITOR**
Canada | 34-2-0 (12 KOs)
10. **RICO RAMOS**
U.S. | 20-1-0 (11 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings are compiled by the magazine's Editorial Board, with the participation of THE RING Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on RATINGS at RingTV.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   Panama | 33-1-1 (12 KOs)
2. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
   Ghana | 28-4-0 (22 KOs)
3. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   Japan | 16-0-2 (11 KOs)
4. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan | 28-1-0 (17 KOs)
5. **ERIC MOREL**
   U.S. | 46-3-0 (23 KOs)
6. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines | 30-2-3 (19 KOs)
7. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
   Armenia | 37-5-1 (27 KOs)
8. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico | 60-6-2 (46 KOs)
9. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
   Mexico | 19-0-1 (11 KOs)
10. **HUGO RUIZ**
    Mexico | 30-1-0 (27 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina | 36-1-2 (19 KOs)
2. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
   Thailand | 20-2-0 (13 KOs)
3. **HUGO CAZARES**
   Mexico | 36-7-2 (26 KOs)
4. **YOTA SATO**
   Japan | 24-2-1 (12 KOs)
5. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
   Thailand | 20-5-1 (7 KOs)
6. **TOMONOBU SHIMIZU**
   Japan | 19-4-1 (9 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ**
   Mexico | 14-1-1 (7 KOs)
8. **NOBUO NASHIRO**
   Japan | 18-4-1 (12 KOs)
9. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   Mexico | 25-0-0 (21 KOs)
10. **RODEL MAYOL**
    Philippines | 31-5-2 (22 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C **SONNY BOY JARO**
Philippines | 34-10-5 (24 KOs)

1. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 33-2-0 (25 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   U.S. | 31-3-0 (18 KOs)
3. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   South Africa | 28-2-0 (19 KOs)
4. **MILAN MELINDO**
   Philippines | 27-0-0 (11 KOs)
5. **P. WONJONGKAM**
   Thailand | 83-4-2 (44 KOs)
6. **ROCKY FUENTES**
   Philippines | 33-6-2 (20 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   Argentina | 28-1-0 (16 KOs)
8. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
   Panama | 25-3-0 (20 KOs)
9. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
   Japan | 15-1-1 (10 KOs)
10. **EDGAR SOSA**
    Mexico | 45-7-0 (27 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   Nicaragua | 32-0-0 (27 KOs)
2. **ULISES SOLIS**
   Mexico | 34-2-3 (21 KOs)
3. **DONNIE NIETES**
   Philippines | 30-1-3 (16 KOs)
4. **K. PORPRAMOOK**
   Thailand | 45-3-0 (30 KOs)
5. **MASAYUKI KURODA**
   Japan | 21-3-1 (13 KOs)
6. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   Mexico | 23-2-1 (15 KOs)
7. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
   Japan | 16-0-3 (10 KOs)
8. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
   Philippines | 16-2-0 (10 KOs)
9. **LUIS CEJA**
   Mexico | 22-1-3 (18 KOs)
10. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
    Japan | 16-1-1 (7 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
   South Africa | 22-0-0 (15 KOs)
2. **KAZUTO IOKA**
   Japan | 9-0-0 (6 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
   Mexico | 15-1-0 (7 KOs)
4. **RAUL GARCIA**
   Mexico | 32-2-1 (20 KOs)
5. **DENVER CUELLO**
   Philippines | 31-4-6 (21 KOs)
6. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   Thailand | 22-0-0 (7 KOs)
7. **JUAN PALACIOS**
   Nicaragua | 29-3-1 (22 KOs)
8. **FLORANTE CONDES**
   Philippines | 25-6-1 (21 KOs)
9. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
   Japan | 15-2-0 (8 KOs)
10. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
    Japan | 24-5-0 (10 KOs)

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POUND FOR POUND

NOTE: *The No. 1 position is vacant.*

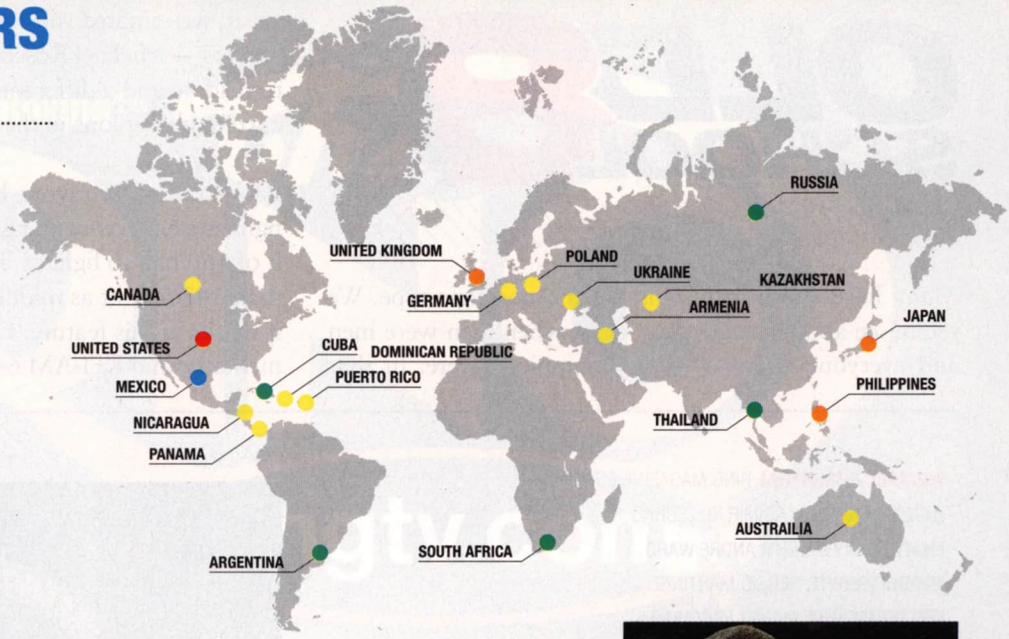
2. **MANNY PACQUIAO** (TIE)
   Philippines | 54-4-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR** (TIE)
   U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
3. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
   Argentina | 49-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
4. **NONITO DONAIRE**
   Philippines | 28-1-0 (18 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT
5. **ANDRE WARD**
   U.S. | 25-0-0 (13 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT
7. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   Ukraine | 57-3-0 (50 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
8. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
   U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT
9. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
   Ukraine | 44-2-0 (40 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
10. **CHAD DAWSON**
    U.S. | 31-1-0 (17 KOs) | LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Image: **Christof Stache-Getty**

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	35*
MEXICO	27
JAPAN	17
UNITED KINGDOM	13
PHILIPPINES	11
THAILAND	6
ARGENTINA	5
CUBA	5
RUSSIA	5
SOUTH AFRICA	5
PANAMA	4
POLAND	4
GERMANY	3
PUERTO RICO	3
ARMENIA	2
AUSTRALIA	2
CANADA	2
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2
KAZAKHSTAN	2
NICARAGUA	2
UKRAINE	2
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
COSTA RICA	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
GHANA	1
HUNGARY	1
INDONESIA	1
ITALY	1
JAMAICA	1
MALAWI	1
NIGERIA	1
ROMANIA	1
SLOVENIA	1
SPAIN	1
TURKEY	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1

*Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight, welterweight) and Timothy Bradley (welterweight, junior welterweight).



● 30 OR MORE
● 20 - 29 ● 10 - 19 ● 5 - 9 ● 2 - 4

THEN VS. NOW

The U.S. continues to dominate THE RING Ratings. However, the Americans lag far behind generations past. Here, we compare U.S. fighters who are currently rated to those rated 30 years ago, in 1982. It's not close: 72 Americans were rated in 1982, 35 today. And there were only 12 divisions then. Here's the comparison. (A dash indicates that the division didn't exist in 1982.)

DIVISION	1982	2012
HEAVYWEIGHTS	9	2
CRUISERWEIGHT	--	2
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	9	3
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	--	2
MIDDLEWEIGHT	8	1
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	7	5
WELTERWEIGHT	6	6
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	8	5
LIGHTWEIGHT	8	2
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	4	2
FEATHERWEIGHT	4	1
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	3	2
BANTAMWEIGHT	6	1
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	--	0
FLYWEIGHT	0	1
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT	--	0
STRAWWEIGHT	--	0
TOTAL	72	35

NOTE: Five Americans were RING champions in 1982 — Larry Holmes (heavyweight), Dwight Braxton (light heavyweight), Marvin Hagler (middleweight), Aaron Pryor (junior welterweight) and Jeff Chandler (bantamweight). Today, two U.S. fighters are champions — Chad Dawson (light heavyweight) and Andre Ward (super middleweight).

Image: Chris Trotman

PERFECTION

Thirty-six fighters rated by THE RING have perfect records (no losses, no draws). Here are those with the most victories.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.	43-0 (26 KOS)
MIKE ALVARADO	33-0 (23 KOS)
ZSOLT ERDEI	33-0 (18 KOS)
ROMAN GONZALEZ	32-0 (27 KOS)
VANES MARTIROSYAN	32-0 (20 KOS)
DENIS BOYTSOV	31-0 (25 KOS)
TIMOTHY BRADLEY	29-0 (12 KOS)
MIKEY GARCIA	28-0 (24 KOS)
BRYAN VAZQUEZ	28-0 (14 KOS)
KELL BROOK	27-0 (18 KOS)
MATEUSZ MASTERNAK	27-0 (20 KOS)
MILAN MELINDO	27-0 (11 KOS)
HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM	27-0 (17 KOS)
PETER QUILLIN	27-0 (20 KOS)
CARLOS CUADRAS	25-0 (21 KOS)
AUSTIN TROUT	25-0 (14 KOS)
ANDRE WARD	25-0 (13 KOS)

NOTE: The country of fighters who have spent large portions of their lives in two countries was determined primarily by where they spent the bulk of their childhood.

OLD SCHOOL 8

Many hardcore boxing fans are the nostalgic type. We reminisce about the good ol' days, when men were men and everyone knew who the champions were. In that spirit, we initiated this new feature in which THE RING staffers — Michael Rosenthal, Doug Fischer and Lem Satterfield — and a different guest each month provide their current champions in the original eight weight classes.

Back in the day, anyone heavier than 175 pounds had to fight as a heavyweight, fighters over the middleweight limit of 160 had to fight as light heavyweights, those heavier than 147 fought as middleweights and so on. That's how it works in this feature. Our guest this month is TV commentator and KFI-AM 640 radio host Rich Marotta.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: ANTONIO DEMARCO
FEATHERWEIGHT: YURIORKIS GAMBOA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR
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LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: YURIORKIS GAMBOA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER
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LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: YURIORKIS GAMBOA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

RICH MAROTTA TV COMMENTATOR / RADIO HOST
HEAVYWEIGHT: VITALI KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: MIKEY GARCIA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

NOTE: *THESE LISTS WERE COMPILED THROUGH FIGHTS AS OF JUNE 16.*

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FORGOTTEN OLYMPIANS

By **Don Stradley**

Most American boxing fans are familiar with the great USA Olympic teams of 1976 and 1984, and they probably know that such greats as Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, and George Foreman won gold medals in the 1960s, as did Oscar De La Hoya, David Reid and Andre Ward in more recent times. But the American contribution to Olympic boxing is quite vast. Here's just a brief look at some of our finest Olympic competitors, going back more than a century.

EDDIE EAGAN

OLYMPICS: 1920 ANTWERP
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

If you were searching for an archetype of 1920s Americana, you couldn't do better than the clean-cut, overachieving Eagan. The Denver native was studying law at Yale when he won a gold medal at the Antwerp Olympics. He attempted a sequel in 1924, entering the Paris Olympics as a heavyweight, but injured his hands in his first bout and bowed out of the competition. Declining offers to fight professionally, Eagan earned two degrees from Oxford and in 1932 was admitted to the American Bar. That same year, he hit the Olympics a third time, but as a member of the U.S. bobsled team. He returned from the Lake Placid Winter Games with another gold medal, establishing his unique spot in Olympic history as the only athlete to win gold medals in both a summer and winter sport.

World War II saw Eagan earn a colonel's rank and several ribbons for combat. During the 1940s Eagan served as chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, and later as chairman of the Olympic Finance Committee. When the Olympics were plagued by a Cold War subtext during the 1950s, Eagan told *Sports Illustrated*, "The true purpose of the Olympics is to bring about world sportsmanship and good will. It is not an event to bring athletes together in competition to foster nationalism. The Olympic ideal of sports for sports' sake, regardless of race, color or creed, must continue or the Olympics should be canceled as an international event."

Fidel LaBarba had a successful pro career after he won gold in 1924 but an eye injury cut it short. Image: **THE RING**

FIDEL LABARBA

OLYMPICS: 1924 PARIS
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: FLYWEIGHT

LaBarba earned his gold medal by beating England's James McKenzie on points. Although still in high school, LaBarba turned professional immediately after his win. One of the rare early Olympians to make a splash in the professional ranks, LaBarba was soon recognized as the world's undisputed flyweight champion. Unfortunately, a retina injury suffered while training for a 1932 bout resulted in an early retirement and the eventual removal of the eye.

Always a studious type, LaBarba would go on to earn a degree in journalism from Stanford University. He spent much of his life as a sports writer in Santa Monica, Calif., but he also had a good run in Hollywood, working on scripts and serving as a technical advisor for boxing movies. As a pro his record was 68-15-6 (16 KOs). He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1996. In 1970 LaBarba told author Peter Heller about the emotional impact of winning a gold medal: "You can't help it. You're like a baby. You cry, but you're not ashamed to cry. You let the tears come down because it's from your heart. I'm the Olympic champion!"

EDWARD FLYNN

OLYMPICS: 1932 LOS ANGELES
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: WELTERWEIGHT

Prior to his Olympic venture, Flynn took part in several professional bouts using the pseudonym "Brown." Although that little discrepancy brought him some bad press and reflected badly on the integrity of young American boxers, he was one of the era's most highly regarded amateurs, winning 144 bouts and losing none. The culmination of his amateur journey was when he defeated Germany's Erich Campe on points for the gold medal. After the Olympics, Flynn racked up a professional record of 26-7-2 (13 KOs) before being drafted into the Army in 1935. After WWII he spent his remaining years practicing dentistry in Tampa, Fla.

CARMEN BARTH

OLYMPICS: 1932 LOS ANGELES
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: MIDDLEWEIGHT

Barth was a scrappy Italian-American out of Cleveland. After his Olympic triumph, he compiled a professional record of 44-15-4 (13 KOs). He lost to a who's who of pre-war middleweights, including Gus Lesnevich, Solly Krieger, Johnny "Bandit" Romero, Ken Overlin, Leon Zorrita, and NYSAC champion Freddie Steele. On March 28, 1938, Barth did manage a 10-round points win over popular Teddy Yarosz at the Cleveland Arena, but even that was questionable. Local columnist Ernie Braden wrote that Barth "couldn't hit Yarosz at 10 paces with a handful of buckshot."

Even Barth's Olympic win came under some scrutiny, as some observers felt Argentina's Amado Azar had bested Barth in the final. But Barth had his supporters, such as the man from the Associated Press who reported that Barth "beat a victory tattoo on the body" of his opponent. Barth also had the distinction of scoring the only knockout win during the entire five-day Olympic event, dropping Manuel Cruz of Mexico for 10 seconds in the quarter finals.

LOUIS LAURIE

OLYMPICS: 1936 BERLIN
MEDAL: BRONZE
WEIGHT CLASS: FLYWEIGHT

Eighteen-year-old Laurie was the youngest member of the 1936 U.S. boxing team. With only 22 amateur bouts to his credit, he wasn't expected to go far, yet he captured a bronze medal by beating Argentina's Alfredo Carlomagno by decision. He deserves special mention for being the first recipient of the Val Barker Cup, a trophy given to the "most scientific" fighter of the games. Laurie was one of only five Americans to be given the honor; others include Roy Jones Jr. in 1988 and Paul Gonzalez in 1984.

Laurie, described by the Associated Press as "a boyish 112-pound sharpshooter of Italian descent," so impressed the German boxing intelligentsia that he was asked to give a spe-

Carmen Barth scored the only knockout of the 1932 Games in Los Angeles. Image: **THE RING**

cial exhibition after the games. From there Laurie gave demonstrations across Europe and the United Kingdom. His snazzy style didn't translate to the pros; he compiled a record of 16-11-1 (2 KOs) before retiring in 1941. Aside from a few exhibitions in Europe during the war years, he never boxed again. He returned to his hometown of Cleveland and worked as a machinist for the remainder of his life. He died in 2002 at age 85.

ED SANDERS

OLYMPICS: 1952 HELSINKI
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: HEAVYWEIGHT

Sanders earned his gold medal when Sweden's Ingemar Johansson was disqualified in the final for his lack of effort. It wasn't the most dramatic way to win, but Sanders emerged from Helsinki looking like a good heavyweight prospect. At a well-muscled 6-foot-4, 215 pounds, Sanders was an excellent all-around college athlete from California who relocated to the Boston area while serving in the Navy.

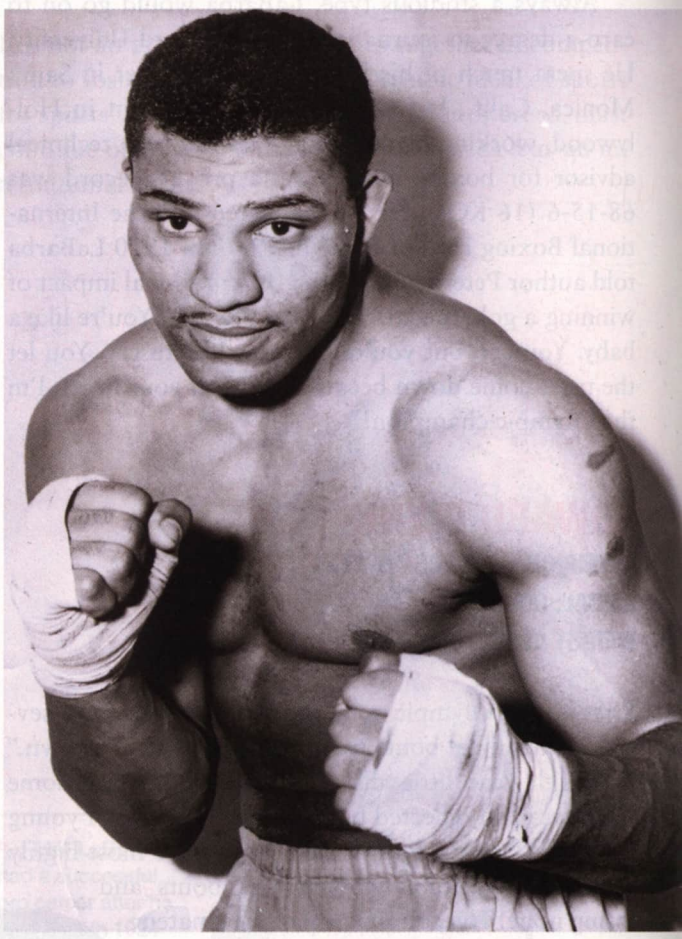
Lee's ninth pro fight saw him pitted against a far more experienced Willie James at the Boston Garden for "The New England Heavyweight Championship." The bout took place on Dec. 11, 1954 as part of a special "All-Star" Christmas show, but it was a decidedly dark Christmas on Causeway Street. Sanders was lethargic, and as Lowell columnist Gill Wood observed, James "at times seemed to be carrying Sanders." The fight finally ended in the 11th, with Sanders unconscious on the canvas. Eighteen hours later, the big 24-year-old sometimes known as "Sailor Ed" died at Massachusetts General Hospital from brain injuries. It was a sad, unexpected ending for the first African-American to win Olympic gold in the heavyweight class.

NORVEL LEE

OLYMPICS: 1952 HELSINKI
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Born in Eagle Rock, Va., Lee was 28 when he went to Helsinki as a reserve heavyweight. He'd narrowly missed making the 1948 team, losing in the finals of the U.S. Trials. Not wanting to be a reserve for two consecutive Olympics, he accepted an offer to lose 12 pounds to compete as a light heavyweight. The gamble paid off, for he went on to defeat Argentina's Antonio Pacenza for the gold medal on a 3-0 decision. Like many Olympic boxers before him, Lee was a college man and had no intention of turning pro. He'd already earned a master's degree from Howard University. He'd also made headlines in 1948 after being arrested in his hometown of Covington, Kentucky, for being one of the first blacks to sit in the all-white section of a bus.

Lee was sometimes criticized for being too cautious in the ring, but he responded to his critics by telling the Associated Press in 1952, "Because I don't want to make the ring my profession, I don't fight a popular style. I'm not the killer type. I refuse to take a punch to give one." He must have been special, though, for along with his gold medal he was awarded the Val Barker Cup.



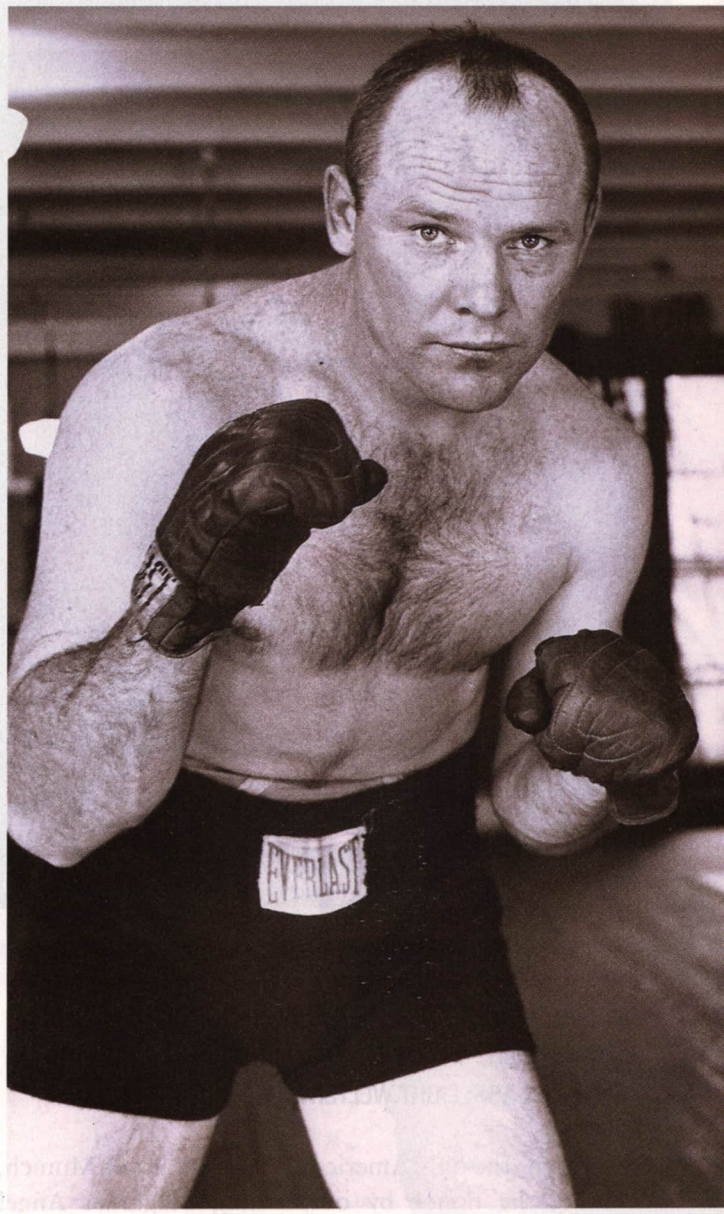
Ed Sanders beat **Ingemar Johansson** for the gold medal in the 1952 Olympics. **Image: THE RING**

PETE RADEMACHER

OLYMPICS: 1956 MELBOURNE
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: HEAVYWEIGHT

Back when Eddie Eagan was still an amateur, there was much talk about him possibly entering the professional field to challenge Gene Tunney or Jack Dempsey. Those bouts never happened, but the same scenario actually occurred four decades later after Rademacher's success in Australia. In an unprecedented event, Rademacher made his pro debut against heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson. The bout received much publicity, but was disastrous for Rademacher. He knocked Patterson down in round two, but was dropped seven times himself before the bout was mercifully stopped in round six. Although Patterson praised Rademacher's punching power, referee Tommy Loughran advised Rademacher to quit boxing, and the United Press described the bout as, "the greatest massacre since Custer's last stand."

Rademacher, a former football player at Washington State, had been winning amateur boxing tournaments as far back as 1949. He won his gold medal by beating Russian Lev Mukhin, via first round KO. In fact, Rademacher stopped all of his Olympic opponents inside the distance, a rarity which may have encouraged promoters to rush him into the pros. Aside from wins over George Chuvalo and Lamar Clark, Rademacher never quite clicked as a professional, retiring with a record of 15-7-1 (8 KOs). He went on to be a successful businessman in Akron, Ohio; locals may know him best as the colorful character who rides a gas-powered unicycle during holiday parades.



Pete Rademacher made the ill-fated decision to fight the heavyweight champion in his first pro fight. Image: **THE RING**

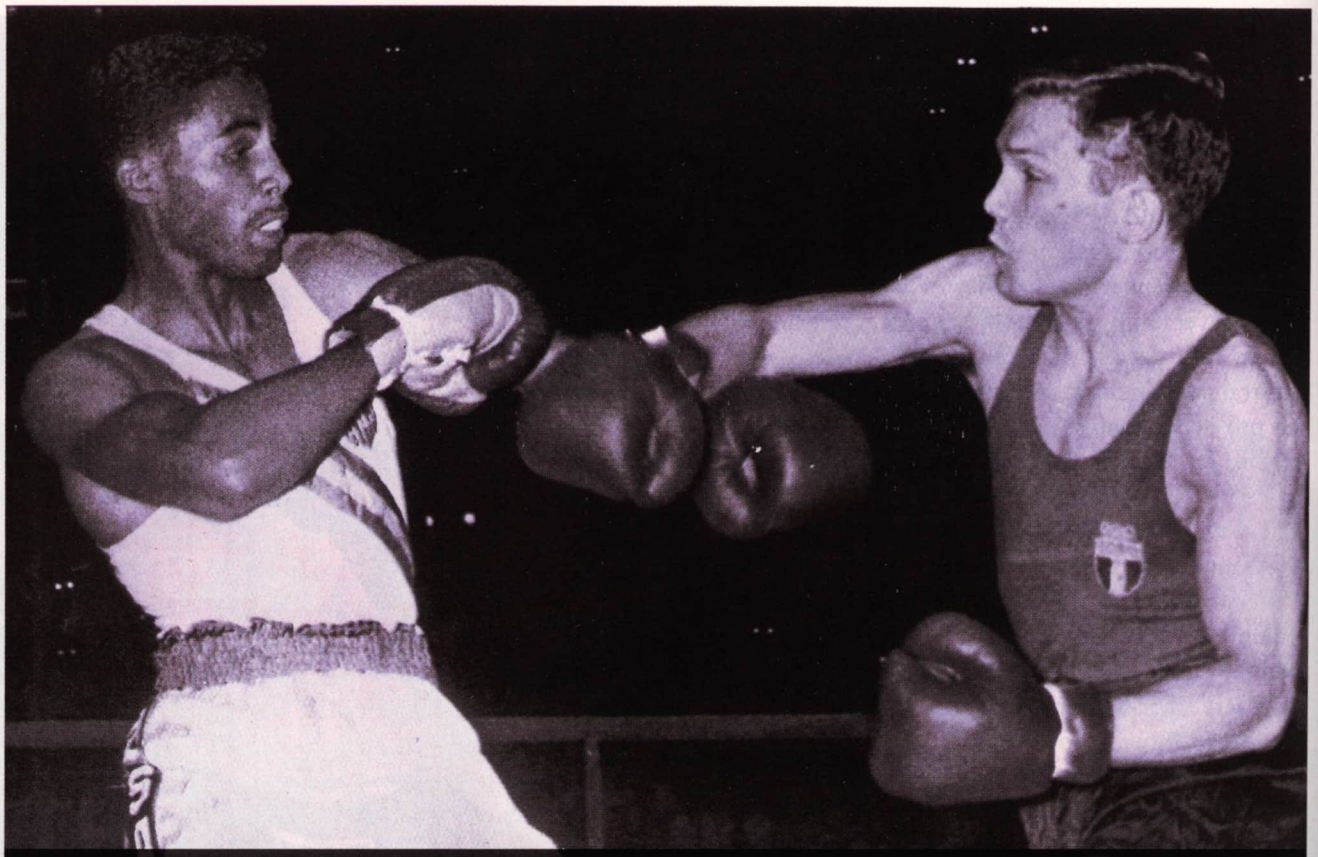
WILBUR MCCLURE

OLYMPICS: 1960 ROME
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT

"Skeeter" McClure didn't even know what the Olympics were all about when he and the rest of the U.S. team, including other gold winners Cassius Clay and Eddie Crook, arrived in Rome. To McClure, it was just another boxing tournament, even though there was tension in the air when a number of Russian judges were replaced for showing an obvious anti-American bias.

McClure won his gold by beating Italy's Carmelo Bossi on points, then went on to have a reasonable professional career, retiring after 33 pro bouts. He later earned degrees in philosophy and literature as well as a doctorate in psychology. He also taught at Northeastern University, and served as the boxing commissioner of Massachusetts.

Like many talented Olympians, McClure struggled when he started fighting for money. He blamed his lack of success on mismanagement. Even a short-lived stint under the tutelage of Cus D'Amato failed to bring positive results. McClure once said of Cus, "He wanted me to use the peek-a-boo style he gave Floyd Patterson, and that wasn't for me. I was a boxer, man."



Wilbur McClure became a university professor after winning gold in 1960 and going on to a solid pro career. Image: **THE RING**

SUGAR RAY SEALES

OLYMPICS: 1972 MUNICH
MEDAL: GOLD
WEIGHT CLASS: LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT

Seales was the only American gold medalist at Munich, earning the honor by outpointing Bulgaria's Angel Angelov. A classy boxing stylist from a family of boxers, Seales was from Tacoma, Washington, by way of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The highlight of his pro career was a three-fight series with Marvelous Marvin Hagler. They were both undefeated young middleweights when they first met in 1974. Seales lost by decision, but the bout was close. A rematch saw Seales hold Hagler to a draw. They met again in 1979, but this time, as Seales struggled with personal and managerial problems, Hagler took it out of the judges' hands and knocked Seales out in the first round.

Seales had a solid professional career, retiring in 1983 at 57-8-3 (34 KOs). The revelation that boxing had left him legally blind created an uproar and made him a focal point for anti-boxing advocates. A *People* magazine story published in 1984 depicted Seales as broke, living in darkness, and walking with a cane. Still, Seales was optimistic: "You know, we don't think of ourself as blind. We are going to stretch and become a champion at something else," he said. True to his word, Seales found a new career working with autistic children at Lincoln High School in Tacoma.

ALSO: OLIVER KIRK AND THE 1904 U.S. TEAM

The American squad that competed at the 1904 St. Louis Games won a staggering total of 18 medals, including seven gold, seven silver, and four bronze. Of course, America was the only country competing that year, since the sport had just been introduced to Olympic competition. The winners for each weight class ran thusly: Samuel Berger, heavyweight; Charles Mayer, middleweight; Albert Young, welterweight; Harry Spanjer, lightweight; Oliver Kirk, featherweight and bantamweight; and George Finnegan, flyweight.

The 1904 Olympics generated a star of sorts in Ollie Kirk, the only man ever to win two gold medals in boxing at a single Olympics. He'd knocked out Finnegan to win the bantamweight medal, but being a St. Louis fighter, he won the hearts of the local fans and

Sugar Ray Seales (above and right) was the only American to win a gold medal in the 1972 Games. Images: **THE RING**

was encouraged to face featherweight Frank Haller. Mayer, Finnegan, and Spanjer had tried and failed to win in two weight classes, but Kirk beat Haller and was awarded both gold medals. Haller defeated Kirk a year later in a Chicago tournament, but as far as Olympic history is concerned, Kirk's name was made.

Kirk briefly pursued a pro career, the highlight being a win over the legendary Abe Attell in 1912. That earned Kirk a bout with featherweight champion Johnny Kilbane, who according to an International News Service report, "toyed with (Kirk) for one round and beat him into a helpless pulp in the second." Kirk then met Attell in a rematch, was knocked cold in three, and wasn't much good after that. ■

THE GREATEST OLYMPIAN?

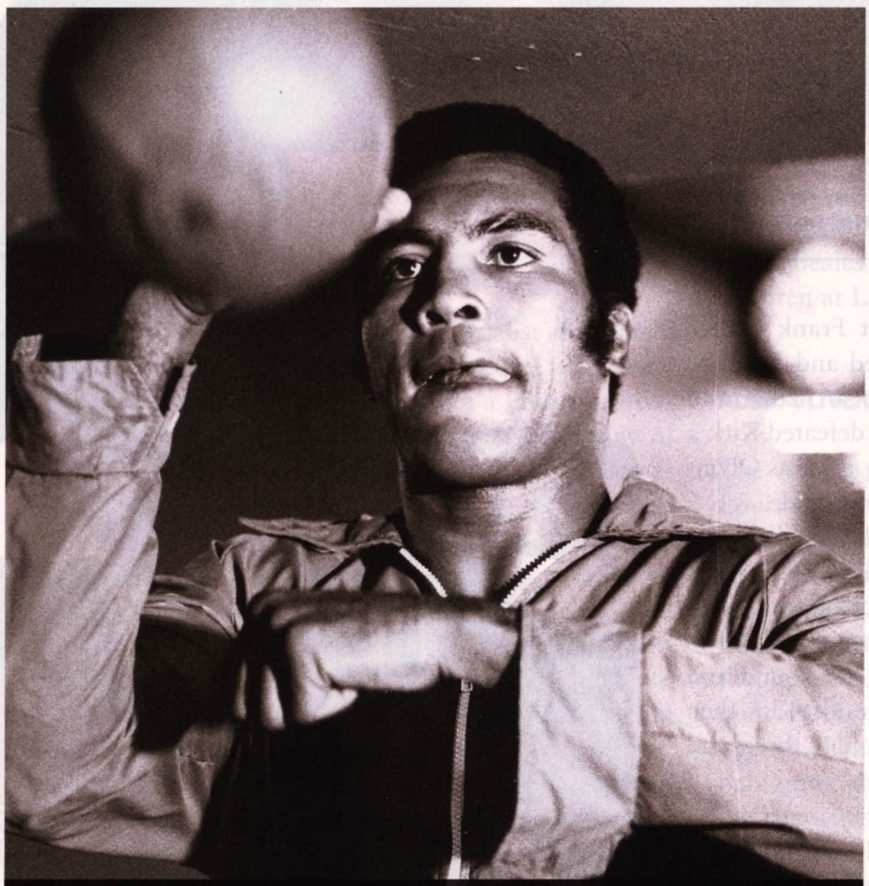
CUBA'S TEOFILO STEVENSON, WHO DIED AT 60 IN JUNE, WON THREE GOLD MEDALS AND MIGHT'VE WON MORE

By **Norm Frauenheim**

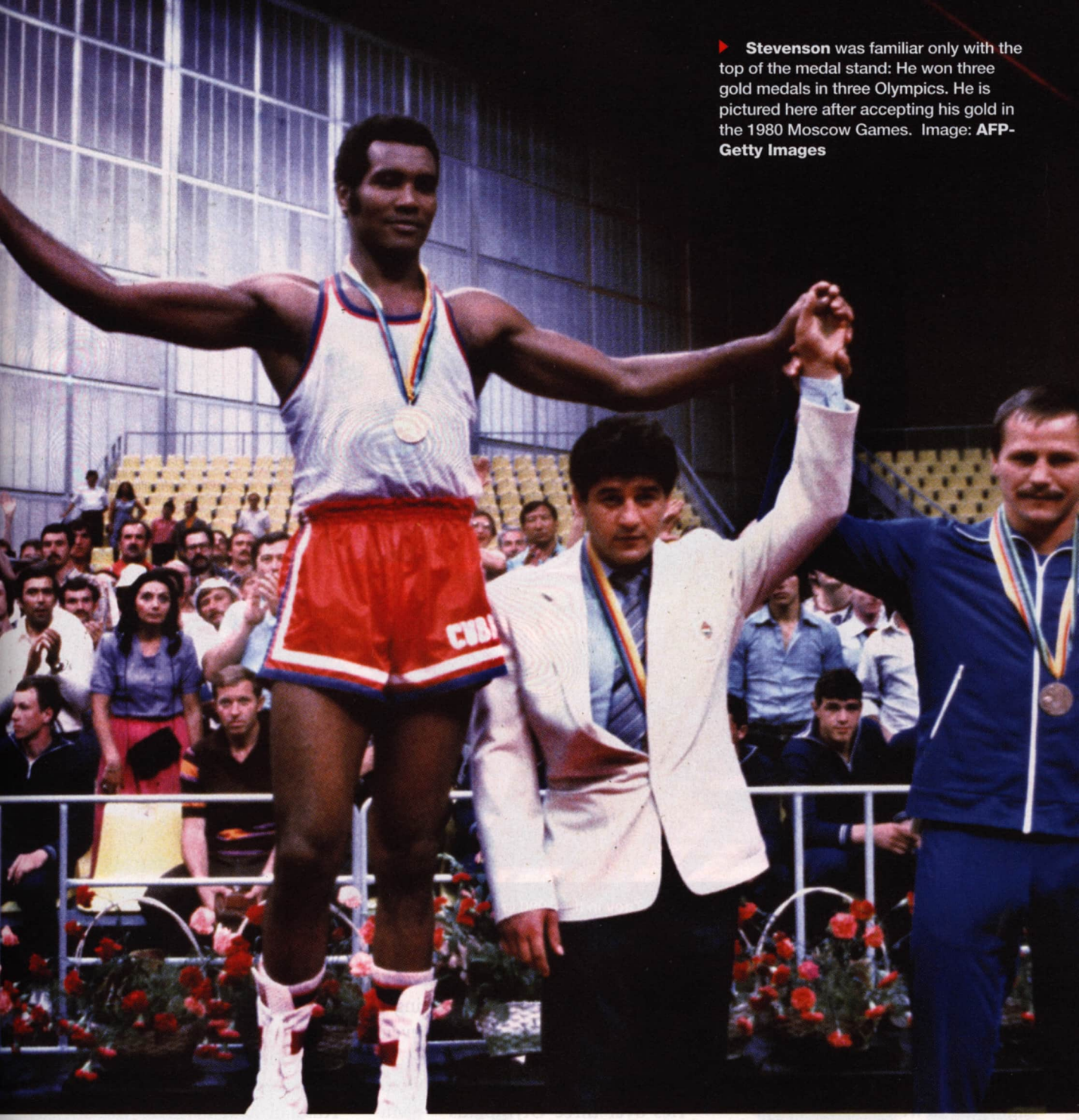
He was compared to Muhammad Ali. He had Lennox Lewis' height and some of Joe Frazier's power in a feared right hand. He had George Foreman's gentle smile and thick shoulders. Like all of them, he had Olympic gold.

Yet, Teofilo Stevenson never fought any of the legends to whom he is linked by an imagination that never ceases to wonder what might have been. That's part of the Stevenson mythology. It will live on, long after Stevenson's death at 60 on July 11 in Havana from a reported heart attack.

It will, in part, because his place among the great heavyweights was never resolved in a proposed bout against the greatest of them all. Bob Arum tried to put together Ali-Stevenson. So did Don King. There was even a third attempt in a deal with CBS for a card in Rio de Janeiro that would have featured Ali-Stevenson in a three-rounder in the fall of 1981, a year after Stevenson won his third gold at the 1980 Moscow Olympics. It didn't happen then because the financial backer vanished among circumstances that are a mystery to this day.



The speed bag was as helpless as many of **Teofilo Stevenson's** opponents. Image: **THE RING**



Stevenson was familiar only with the top of the medal stand: He won three gold medals in three Olympics. He is pictured here after accepting his gold in the 1980 Moscow Games. Image: **AFP-Getty Images**

Perhaps that was meant to be. Stevenson remains a hero to his people and Cuba's Communist state because he didn't escape the island for money that has lured so many since he won his — and Cuba's — first boxing gold medal at the 1972 Munich Games. He is known for that old *Sports Illustrated* headline: *He'd Rather Be Red Than Rich*. Money can't buy a title as the People's Champ.

"He has always been No. 1 among Cuban sports fans," said Roy Fernandez, the son of a former official with the Cuba's Institute of Sport who grew up with Stevenson and left Havana 30 years ago for Montreal. "Nobody is close. I travel back and forth to Cuba. I spent time with Teofilo last year.

"He was having problems and everybody knew about them. There was the heart condition. He was drinking. But he was loved more than any Cuban athlete. More than any of the baseball players. For Cubans, there is Teofilo and then Olympic runner Alberto Juantorena, who won the 400 meters and 800 in Montreal. Teofilo and Juantorena, first and second."

Barring the sudden and unlikely appearance of another one like him,

Teofilo Stevenson unloads on Bulgarian **Pyotr Zaev** in the 1980 competition. Image: **AFP-Getty Images**

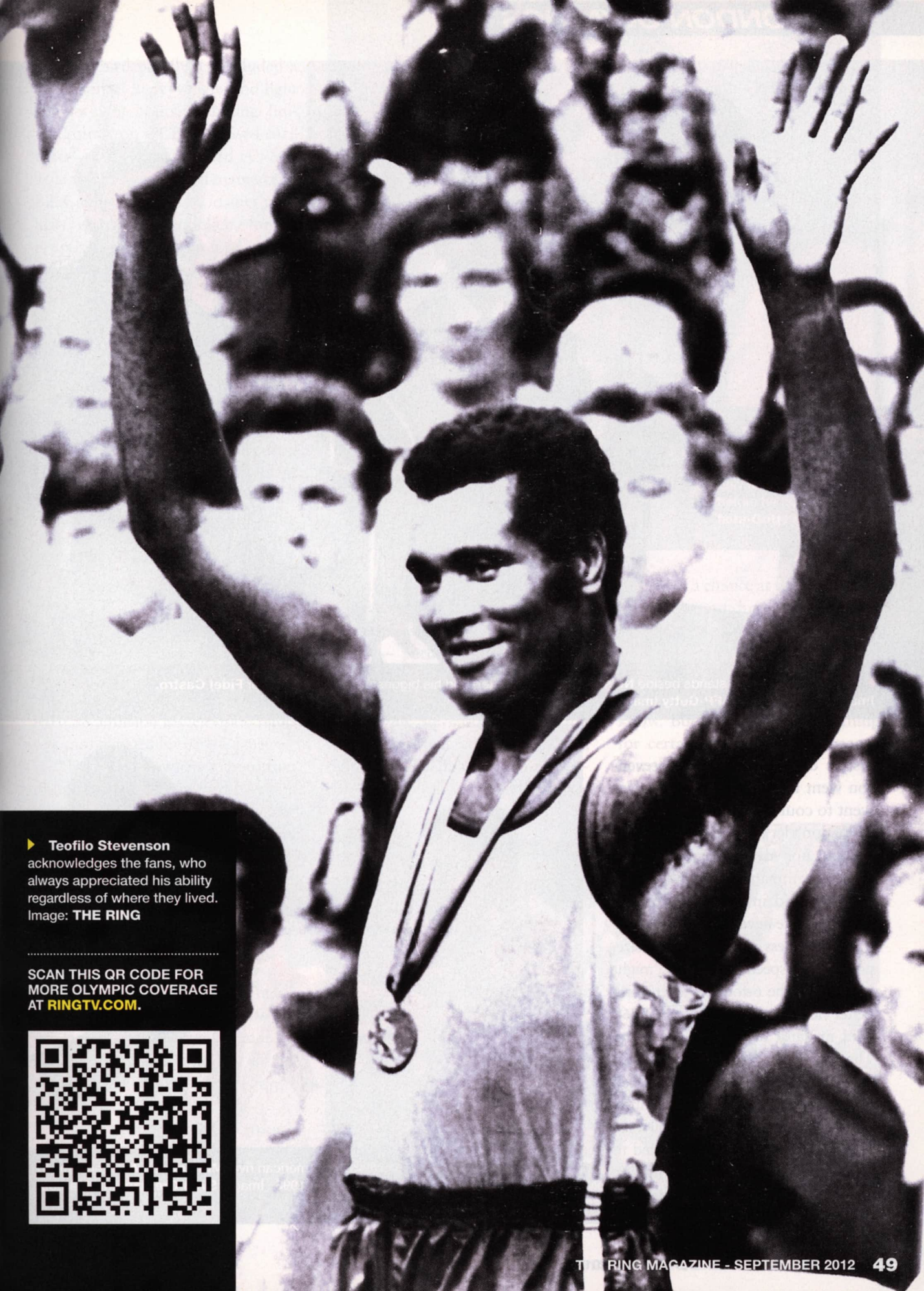
Stevenson will always rank No. 1 among Olympic boxers, ahead of two other three-time gold medalists — Cuban heavyweight Felix Savon and Hungarian middleweight and light middleweight Lazlo Papp.

Even through the political complications that led to an American boycott of the Moscow Games and a retaliatory boycott four years later in Los Angeles, Stevenson personified an era when Olympic boxing was at its height in public popularity. Before the scandal of the Seoul Games in 1988, when Roy Jones Jr. was robbed of gold, and the subsequent introduction of computer scoring, Stevenson excited the worldwide audience with knockouts now rare in Olympic boxing.

By current standards, Stevenson's record is astounding. He scored nine stoppages in 12 victories over three Olympiads — Munich, Montreal and Moscow. It could have been 11. After avenging a Pan American Games loss to American Duane Bobick in the 1972 quarterfinals, he got the gold in Munich when Romanian Ion Alexe didn't show up for the championships bout. Alexe must have seen that right hand.

Eight years later in Moscow, Stevenson, who had a 7-foot wingspan, won the gold-medal bout with a 4-1 decision over Piotr Zaev of the former Soviet Union. The story, perhaps apocryphal, was that Fidel Castro, the Cuban dictator, asked him not to knock out the Russian as a favor to the Soviets, then Cuba's most important ally.

It turns out that Stevenson was as much of a fan of Fidel as Fidel was of him. In 1999, Stevenson, then vice-president of the Cuban Boxing Federation, was arrested at the Miami International Airport during a layover on his way home from an international tournament. Allegedly, he head-butted an employee for a U.S. airline. According to Stevenson, he was retaliating for



Teofilo Stevenson acknowledges the fans, who always appreciated his ability regardless of where they lived. Image: **THE RING**

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Teofilo Stevenson stands beside **Nelson Mandela** (center) and his biggest fan, Cuban dictator **Fidel Castro.** **Image: Rafael Perez-AFP-Getty Images**

insults directed at Castro. Stevenson went home and the case never went to court.

"I don't let anyone insult my revolution, nor my people, nor, above all, the 'commandante,'" Stevenson, then 48, said in story reported by Reuters. "I've never been a coward."

Fearlessness coupled with his size, power and speed, many say, might have made the 6-foot-5 Stevenson a better heavyweight than Ali, a 1960 gold medalist at light heavyweight. The question has always been whether he could have developed the stamina to go the pro distance, then 15 rounds. Nobody will ever know. There were offers reported to be between $1 million and $5 million from Arum and King for a scheduled three-rounder against Ali.

This is as close as **Stevenson** and American rival **Muhammad Ali** ever came to fighting. Ali visited Stevenson in Cuba in 1996. Image: **Sven Creutzmann-Mambo Photo-Getty Images**

The third possibility included a collection of heavyweight and light heavyweight bouts, including Jimmy Young, on a CBS-televised card that would have featured Ali-Stevenson in a three-round main event. Bill Caplan, Foreman's former publicist, was working publicity for the proposed event, which had its initial financial support from an Orange County, Calif., businessman named Ben Thompson

"A hustler," Caplan said.

According to Caplan, Thompson, who had been paying fighters a cash advance from money stashed in a briefcase, had somehow traveled to Cuba, met with Stevenson and received approval for the event from the Caribbean nation's Institute of Sport, which presumably would have collected whatever Stevenson earned.

"I saw the document," Caplan said. "I saw the stamp of approval from the Institute."

Caplan and Thompson took the document and the proposed card to CBS. CBS Chairman William Paley offered $8.5 million for television rights to a card planned for Rio de Janeiro.

"But that's when Thompson disappeared," Caplan said. "As you can imagine, there are rumors and talk about what happened to him. Nobody knows. He just vanished."

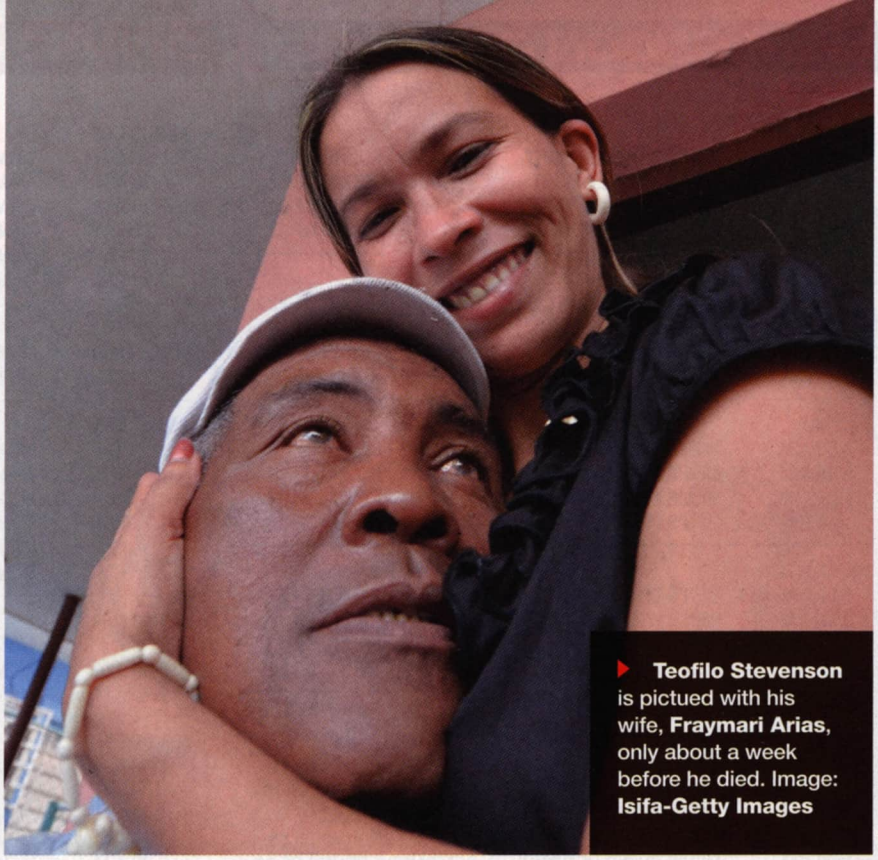
That was the end of whatever chance there was of Stevenson facing Ali in what might have been a legendary career.

"It's impossible for me to say whether Teofilo would have made that jump," Fernandez said of the pro possibility. "He was a man of his time, of those times. In different times, he might have. Yeah, he might have."

As it turned out, Stevenson's occupation of the Olympic victory stand's top pedestal already had ended. He might have won a fourth gold at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles if not for the Cuban boycott. Two years later, Stevenson let the world know that the 1984 gold could — perhaps should — have been his. At the 1986 World Championships in Reno, Nev., he won.

In 1988, Stevenson, then 34 and with a reported record of 302-22, retired when Cuba decided to boycott Seoul, a cross-starred Olympics robbed of a chance at witnessing Stevenson against future heavyweight champs Lewis and Riddick Bowe.

Could he have beaten Lewis, or Bowe, or Frazier, or Foreman or Ali? It's a fantasy game. We'll never know. But we do know one thing for certain: There's never been a better Olympic boxer. ■



Teofilo Stevenson is pictued with his wife, **Fraymari Arias**, only about a week before he died. Image: **Isifa-Getty Images**

Stevenson's passion was clearly evident during his funeral. Image: **Adalberto Roque-Getty Images**

LONDON OLYMPICS BOXING SCHEDULE

JULY 28		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - ROUND OF 32
7:00 A.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 32
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - ROUND OF 32
2:00 P.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 32
JULY 29		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 32
7:00 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - ROUND OF 32
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 32
2:00 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - ROUND OF 32
JULY 30		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - ROUND OF 32
6:45 A.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - ROUND OF 32
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - ROUND OF 32
1:45 P.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - ROUND OF 32
JULY 31		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - ROUND OF 32
6:45 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - ROUND OF 32
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - ROUND OF 32
1:45 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - ROUND OF 32
AUGUST 01		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - ROUND OF 16
7:30 A.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - ROUND OF 16
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - ROUND OF 16
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - ROUND OF 16
AUGUST 02		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 16
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 16
AUGUST 03		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - ROUND OF 16
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - ROUND OF 16
AUGUST 04		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - ROUND OF 16
7:30 A.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - ROUND OF 16
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - ROUND OF 16
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - ROUND OF 16
AUGUST 05		
5:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(51KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 16
7:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - QUARTERFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - QUARTERFINALS
AUGUST 06		
5:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(51KG) - QUARTERFINALS
6:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - QUARTERFINALS
7:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - QUARTERFINALS
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - QUARTERFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - QUARTERFINALS
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - QUARTERFINALS
AUGUST 07		
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - QUARTERFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - QUARTERFINALS
AUGUST 08		
5:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(51KG) - SEMIFINALS
6:00 A.M.	WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - SEMIFINALS
6:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - SEMIFINALS
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - QUARTERFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - QUARTERFINALS
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - QUARTERFINALS
AUGUST 09		
8:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(51KG) - FINAL
8:45 A.M.	WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - FINAL
9:15 A.M.	WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - FINAL
AUGUST 10		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - SEMIFINALS
6:00 A.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - SEMIFINALS
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - SEMIFINALS
7:00 A.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - SEMIFINALS
7:30 A.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - SEMIFINALS
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - SEMIFINALS
1:00 P.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - SEMIFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - SEMIFINALS
2:00 P.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - SEMIFINALS
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - SEMIFINALS
AUGUST 11		
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - FINAL
12:45 P.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - FINAL
1:15 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - FINAL
1:45 P.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - FINAL
2:15 P.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - FINAL
AUGUST 12		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - FINAL
5:45 A.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - FINAL
6:15 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - FINAL
6:45 A.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - FINAL
7:15 A.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - FINAL

***NOTE:** ALL TIMES ARE PACIFIC STANDARD TIME. PLEASE CHECK LISTINGS IN YOUR AREA TO DETERMINE TELEVISION COVERAGE.*

The boxing will take place at **Excel London.** Image: **Julian Finney-Getty Images**

The living members of the International Boxing Hall of Fame's class of 2012 (from left to right): journalist **Michael Katz**, **Mark Johnson**, broadcaster **Al Bernstein**, trainer **Freddie Roach**, **Thomas Hearns** and announcer **Michael Buffer**. Image: **Associated Press**

ONE MAN'S PILGRIMAGE

CORRESPONDENT LEE GROVES' TRIP TO THE 2012 BOXING HALL OF FAME WEEKEND

By **Lee Groves**

Twenty years now, where'd they go; Twenty years...I don't know
Sit and wonder sometimes where they've gone
– **Bob Seger, "Like A Rock"**

Those lyrics leaped to mind as I planned my 20th trip to the International Boxing Hall of Fame's induction weekend. That's because while 20 years is a long time when seen through the day-to-day microscope, they seem impossibly brief through the panoramic lens of lifelong memory.

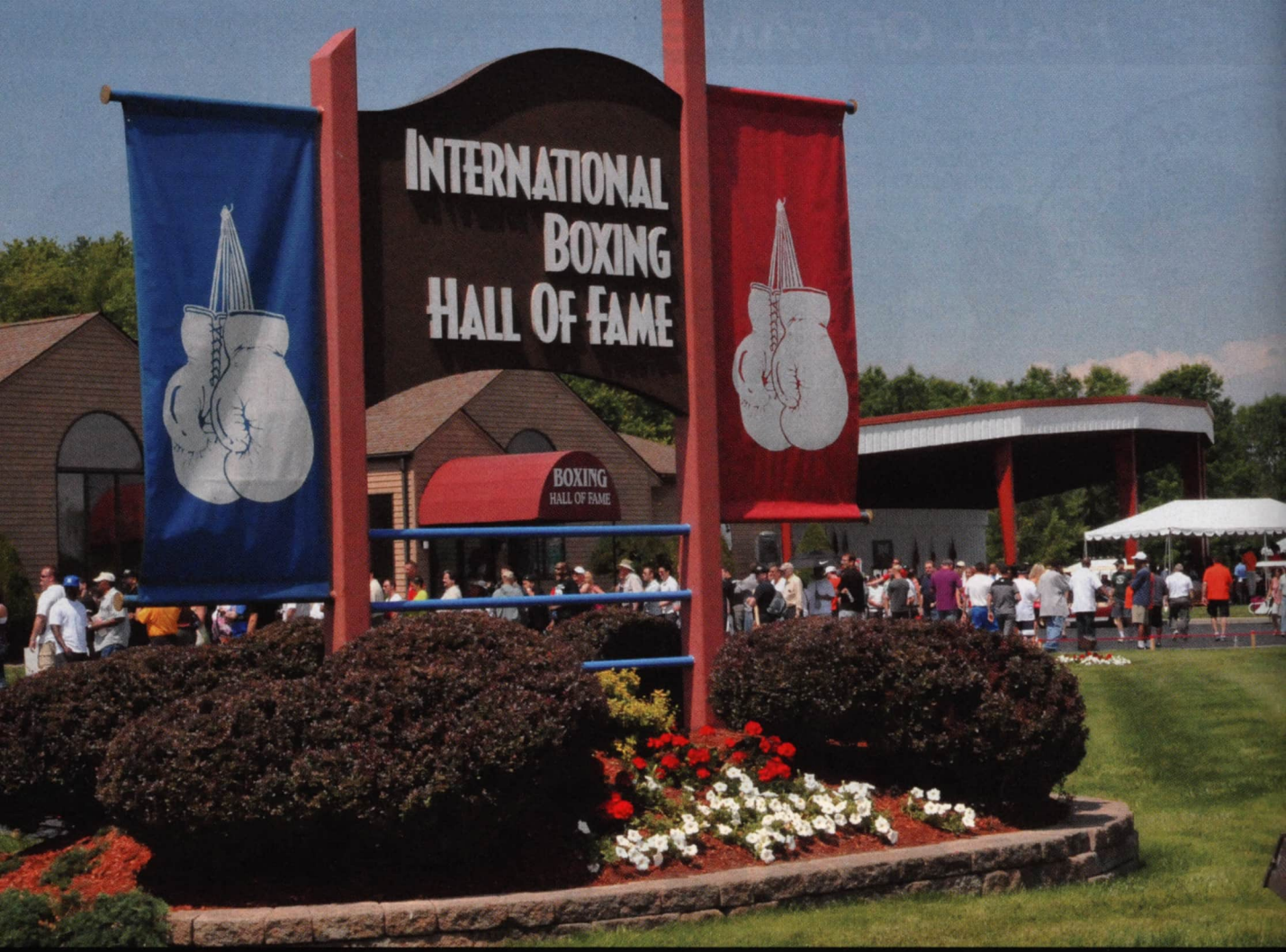
To me, a vital part of the event's success is that while many rituals remain constant, the details within always shift. There's enough familiarity to create a comfort zone but enough dynamic change to keep visitors returning year after year. The following is 2012 IBHOF Weekend through the eyes of one man.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7:

4:42 A.M. TO 10:05 A.M. – My route to Canastota — in central New York — departed from the norm because less than eight hours earlier I picked up a writing award from the Boxing Writers Association of America. Therefore I would be driving into Canastota from New York City instead of my customary Erie, Pa.

I left the Big Apple early so I could navigate its streets without the usual drama. Because I was working on just a 90-minute catnap, the drive's final stages were complicated by burning eyes and compromised concentration. Once I arrived in Syracuse, I didn't bother to unpack; I just lay in bed and drifted off to dreamland.

1:25-1:48 P.M. – Now recharged, I began the drive east to Canastota. A good omen: As I left the parking lot, a black cat that intended to cross my path turned and scooted in the other direction.



The grounds of the Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y., are beautifully maintained. Image: **Jeff Julian**

1:49-2:34 P.M. – It took approximately two minutes to spot a friendly face, Hall of Fame referee Joe Cortez. Cortez and I met at a card earlier this year and he graciously asked me to eat lunch at the Days Inn, where the celebrities always stay. Along with Cortez, I dined with longtime WBC official Chuck Williams, Hall of Fame promoter Don Chargin and his friend Linda Davis. I spotted Thomas Hearns, Aaron Pryor and John Mugabi along with their loved ones, who surely were savoring the excitement to come.

2:35-4:49 P.M. – I met more friends on the grounds — James "Smitty" Smith of "In This Corner" fame, longtime HOF attendee Bill Johnston, historian Don Koss, writer Eric Thompson, super-fan Keith Stechman, Vincent D'Andrea (a perennial banquet table-mate), Zbigniew Marszalek (who has attended every IBHOF weekend) and Bob Scudder, who has attended all but one. As always, the conversations were voluminous and enjoyable.

The IBHOF's Mike Brophy honored Bert Randolph Sugar by wearing a fedora and sporting an unlit cigar. Sugar Ray Seales, wearing his 1972 gold medal, offered lively recollections during his Ringside Lecture. With assistance from Johnston and Spanish-speaking fan Isaac Roldan, I finally met 108- and 112-pound titlist Hilario Zapata. Zapata, a fighter I admired in my youth, signed my copy of Harry Mullan's "The Great Book of Boxing," which has been signed nearly 300 times over the past 17 years.

4:50 P.M.-6:30 P.M. – After losing — then retrieving — my cell phone at the Days Inn, I spent most of this time talking with siblings Brian and Kevin Young, who resemble Penn Jillette and Kevin James, respectively. After we finished, I again ran into Cortez, who invited me to a private buffet at the nearby Rusty Rail.

6:31 P.M.-8:42 P.M. – In a scene plucked straight from my dreams, I conversed, consumed and circulated with luminaries that included

Sugar Ray Leonard made the day of these autograph seekers. The accessibility of the fighters is a wonderful aspect of the event. Image: **Jeff Julian**

Ruben Olivares, Sugar Ray Leonard and Class of 2012 inductees Hearns and Michael Katz. It was fascinating to hear Leonard's recollections of dealing with hostile crowds and his memories of his fights with Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Roberto Duran and Larry Bonds, the last of which was staged in nearby Syracuse.

During one sequence I spied a cluster that included Hagler, Hearns and John Mugabi. At one point Hagler spoke to Mugabi while placing the knuckles of his right hand on the point of his own chin, no doubt recalling the power "The Beast" unleashed back in 1986.

8:43 P.M.-1:15 A.M. – Most of this time was spent at Graziano's, the unofficial late-night hot spot. Just before I entered the bar Marie Backus, wife of ex-welterweight champ Billy Backus, called out. Somewhere during her trip from the Days Inn she lost an inscribed tortoise shell cigarette case, a gift from her daughter given nearly two decades earlier. Despite her requests not to bother, I decided to help.

The walk back to the hotel yielded nothing but I recalled her saying it might have been left in a golf cart. After consulting with security, the case was found in the second cart we searched and minutes later item and owner were reunited.

The rest of the evening was spent in time-flying conversation. The best line I heard was from a longtime Vermont buddy who opined that "watching Jose Sulaiman getting inducted into the Hall of Fame was like seeing the Penguin inducted into the Batcave."

With a waning moon high in the post-midnight sky, I grabbed a late snack from the McDonald's drive-thru and returned to the hotel to prepare for Day Two.

FRIDAY, JULY 8

10:30 A.M.-3 P.M. – Virtually every moment was spent on the grounds. Speakers included Antonio Tarver as well as the trio of author Alexandre Choko, project partner Joe Cortez and THE RING Magazine Editor Michael Rosenthal, who discussed the upcoming video/

book project "The Future of Boxing." A percentage of the proceeds will be devoted to the IBHOF.

One nearby fan, a Rikers Island guard, told me Ray Mercer not only signed autographs at Graziano's but also had the fans sign his T-shirt. Mercer confirmed this story the next day, saying fans make the boxers the stars they are and this was his way of thanking them. Mercer's unprecedented demonstration of regard illustrates this event's unique relationship between athlete and admirer.

I also spent time with one fan that may have traveled the farthest — Sydney, Australia's Aubrey Pitt, who made the challenging journey with his family. His passion for boxing is unquestioned and he always expresses it boldly and prolifically.

3-6 P.M. – The annual fist castings were conducted on the pavilion's stage and one key participant is 27-year-old Aris Pina, who, despite his youth, is one of the most knowledgeable and respected historians I've met. Between 2003 and 2007 and each year since 2009 Pina has enjoyed unique one-on-one time with nearly every living inductee and notable celebrity.

One point of fascination was Hearns, whose legendary right cross obliterated its share of otherwise solid chins.

"He was really happy and excited to be there," Pina said. "He had long fingers but relatively small hands. I saw the knuckles and scars and I was overwhelmed by the history that hand produced. I thought, 'my God, this is the hand that blasted out Pipino Cuevas and Roberto Duran.' I was in awe, like a little kid who got the toy he had been waiting for all these months and you have it in your hand."

6:01-8:48 P.M. – Johnston drove me to the Rusty Rail, site of the "Heavyweight Bash," a banquet to

Thomas Hearns holds up a rendering of the fight that helped make him a living legend, his three-round war with **Marvin Hagler** in 1985. Image: **Jeff Julian**

The card and memorabilia show is a popular event every Hall of Fame weekend. Image: **Jeff Julian**

honor the big men who made the trip to Canastota and provide fans the opportunity to get autographs. Hall officials corrected last year's confusion by insisting on one single-file line in an anteroom instead of two forking lines, which had triggered several tense moments. Also, the patrons were allowed entry into the main room precisely at 7 p.m. Event highlights included:

- Video tributes to Angelo Dundee and Bert Randolph Sugar, the latter of which included a photo montage merged with a rendition of Lloyd Price's "Personality." Dundee's son Jim donated his father's corner jacket, which moved the usually composed IBHOF Executive Directior Ed Brophy. A letter from Sugar's wife was accompanied by a pair of his trademark checkered Madras pants.

- Lamon Brewster's emotional reaction to the reception he received from the fans. "This means as much to me as winning the title," he said.

- The always entertaining Gerry Cooney declaring that if he and Larry Holmes staged a rematch now, "I'd kick his ass."

- Ray Mercer's good-natured sparring with Buddy McGirt, who was in the back room. "McGirt said that if he were a heavyweight, he'd whip my butt," Mercer said. "That's just Little Man's Syndrome; he don't want none of this." McGirt's offstage shouts of "you never signed the contract" suggested otherwise.

- As Leon Spinks departed the stage a front-row fan reached out to shake Spinks' hand, then kissed it. Spinks reciprocated.

Other speakers included George Chuvalo, Michael Moorer and Chuck Wepner.

8:49-9:15 P.M. – Longtime friend and Syracuse resident Bob Newman and I acquired photos and autographs, the most memorable of which was with Seales, who draped his gold medal around my neck with the same sense of ceremony he experienced in 1972. He did this with every fan, a profound demonstration of trust that never was violated.

9:15 P.M.-MIDNIGHT – The Graziano's crowd was at least triple Thursday's crowd and perennial emcee Joey Fiatto showed off his pipes by belting out songs for more than two hours. Dozens danced to the pulsating music but the loudness wreaked havoc on my hearing and vocal chords. Once I left Grazzie's I kept my words to a minimum because I knew Saturday would require another talk-a-thon. After all, I had books to sell.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

9-10 A.M. – With my throat still raw, I drove to the card and memorabilia show at Canastota High School. I brought seven copies of "Tales From the Vault" because, one, I sold 13 copies last year; two, the quality of competition among authors is Harry Greb-like and, three, a book in its third year doesn't sell as well because most who wanted to buy have already done so.

10 A.M.-3:45 P.M. – It took a while for the first sale but after that business was brisk. One enjoyable diversion was Scott Granville's "Ringside Rapid Fire Trivia" for Lostlegendstv.com. I participated last year and made it nearly to the end of the 12-question labyrinth. This year my subject was "first losses" and, to my great surprise, I became the first boxing person ever to survive to the end, though I did miss the questions on Alexis Arguello and Harry Greb. For the record, the only celebrity to run the gauntlet perfectly was soccer's Brandy Chastain, who answered questions about her given sport.

My run of success continued at the table, for I sold out my inventory. That gave me time to visit the other booths in search of goodies to take home.

3:46-4 P.M. – Old magazines are always at the top of my shopping list and a copy of THE RING's April 1977 issue was at the summit. It was the first magazine I ever purchased, and when I reorganized my collection a few years earlier, I discovered it was missing.

Thanks to Dale Snedeker, his son Keith and his grandson Mikka (pro-

Announcer **Michael Buffer** waves to fans during the popular IBHOF Parade of Champions, for which thousands of local residents line the streets of this small village. Image: **Jeff Julian**

nounced Mike-ah), that precious gap was filled for a mere $20. Its condition was nearly as pristine as the day I bought my own. After purchasing two more back issues of THE RING, I was off to the next event – the VIP "Gala" Cocktail reception.

4:05-5:30 P.M. – For my money, the cocktail reception is the best venue to collect autographs as fans can zip from celebrity to celebrity without long lines. However, this event isn't for the claustrophobic as hundreds are jammed within a small circular space.

Since the Manny Pacquiao-Timothy Bradley pay-per-view fight was not going to be shown at the banquet, Newman invited me to watch the show at his house with four other guests. I left my car in his driveway and then hopped into Canadian friend Marc Combetto's rental and helped him find the Syracuse Oncenter Complex, the site of the "Banquet of Champions."

6:41 P.M.-11:45 P.M. – More than 1,000 attended but with the exception of the celebrities, the event's star was Wasfi Tolaymat, a native of Syria who runs the Chicago Fight Club LLC and stages cards with his wife Cynthia. He is better known as "The Cowboy" because of the hat he constantly wears in public and during the live auction the nickname bestowed by emcee Fiatto rang out repeatedly. He purchased five of the nine items, spending nearly $10,000.

The final lot was a two-item set — enlarged RING covers featuring Leonard and Hagler on one and Hearns on the other. When Tolaymat entered the fray, Hearns stood up and shouted "where's the Cowboy at?" At that point Tolaymat approached the stage, shook Hearns' hand and engaged in a bidding war. After the bidding went past $1,500, Tolaymat put the hammer down and bid $3,000. Hearns was finished.

After going toe-to-toe with the "Hit Man," Tolaymat explained his prolific bidding is his way of supporting the Hall, not an ego-driven pursuit as some critics charge. In one-on-one conversation, "The Cowboy's" love of boxing beyond the business end is beyond question.

11:46 P.M.-1:45 A.M. – The night of upsets and outrages wasn't limited to Vegas. Mere minutes after our group arrived at Newman's house, the pay-per-view signal suddenly went black. However, we were able to watch the entire main event in spite of a 45-minute interruption in service. As for the result, its grade was "Triple-A:" Awful, Appalling and Atrocious.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10:

1:46 A.M.-4:45 A.M. – Instead of sleeping, I spent three hours in the lobby with the clerk, another fan and, to our delight, Brewster. Only the threat of a long drive on no sleep the next day persuaded me to get some shuteye.

11:35 A.M.-2:35 P.M. – Fellow writer Bernard Fernandez and I completed our semi-regular ritual of eating Basilio Sausage sandwiches together but this time we did so from the bleachers because all the shaded seats were occupied. The Bradley-Pacquiao aftershocks rippled through the grounds as numerous people sought my opinion, which I gave freely and passionately.

"In This Corner" star Smith invited me to his media tent and one of the many subjects we discussed was the sparring session he taped with Leonard the previous day.

"He nailed me with a shot right here," pointing to his right cheek. "It was the hardest I've ever been hit during our in-ring segments and you can actually hear the impact on the YouTube video. It was even harder than Mike Tyson's hook, which loosened my bridge and eventually caused it to fall out the next day. Even at 56, the focus in Leonard's eyes was still there. His visualization was unbelievable and not only did I see it, I felt it."

2:36 P.M.-4:18 P.M. – The main event of the weekend — the induction ceremony, held outdoors on the Hall of Fame grounds — had several key moments:

Thomas Hearns makes his acceptance speech on induction day. He spoke for everyone when he said: "This is beautiful." Image: **Jeff Julian**

- Journalist Michael Katz couldn't resist referring to Bradley-Pacquiao. "I want to congratulate all of my fellow classmates," he began. "Even poor Freddie."

- Broadcaster Al Bernstein revealed a secret of his success by reciting three rules — never try to be bigger than the event you're covering, never be disrespectful to the athletes, and being fair is more important than being clever. He also paid tribute to Don Dunphy, who also mentored Bernstein. "It was said of Dunphy that he was an objective voice in a subjective sport," Bernstein said, and his goal was to duplicate that standard in his work. Given the honor he was receiving this day, he succeeded beyond his wildest dreams.

- Like Cortez last year, ring announcer Michael Buffer told stories about each of his classmates. He recalled one Bernstein post-fight interview with Kenny "Bang Bang" Bogner, whose rowdy fans drowned out the broadcaster's opening question to the point where Bogner said "I didn't hear a f*****g word you said." Bernstein then turned to the camera and wryly stated "welcome to the world of live television."

Freddie Roach (left) and **Al Bernstein** stand in front of the plaques inside the Hall of Fame after they were inducted.
Image: **Jeff Julian**

• Buffer's six-round talk was followed by a half-round from Roach, who, along with Buffer, took a red-eye charter to Canastota. He paid tribute to his ex-trainer Eddie Futch, saying he was "my mentor and my idol."

• Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson provoked laughter when he said "all these people up here (on stage) is 'Too Sharp.' Where can you get fighters of this magnitude on stage without somebody hitting somebody?" At the end of his remarks, Johnson, by now moved to tears, raised his arms and declared "I made it! This is truly, truly, truly a dream come true."

• Hearns was his usual humble self. "This is something I never trained for," he said. "I've got to thank Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler and all the rest of the guys up here. Me and you, Ray, together we made a lot of folks happy. We made a lot of folks sad too. To see all you folks here today to witness myself and everybody else make it into the Hall of Fame, this is beautiful. I thank you for being here."

4:19-5:20 P.M. – I was able to emerge from the stage swarm relatively unaffected. After saying hello to several people — and picking up a signed postcard from Zapata — I stopped by the gift shop to buy Bert Sugar's book On Boxing as well as two Hall of Fame T-shirts to take with me on future road trips.

Every year when I turn onto the Thruway for the last time, I always turn my head leftward to take a final glance at the grounds. For me it's a melancholy moment but being a half-full soul I also know that glance officially starts a countdown — a countdown toward next year. ■

CARL FROCH AND HIS NEW BOXING FAMILY

By **Gareth A Davies**

LONDON — It might seem strange to our cousins across The Pond, but three-time world super middleweight champion Carl Froch has waited an age for the recognition he truly deserves from the wider sporting public in the UK. It has been a long haul to stardom — seven top level fights in succession — since the brawl with Jean Pascal in December 2008 when he lifted the WBC super middleweight strap. That battle was on terrestrial television, drawing an audience of almost 5 million.

Yet shorn of a major television deal in the UK for much of the last three years, the Nottingham fighter has been in a viewing wilderness. He finally got the plaudits on Sky Sports after plundering his way through Lucian Bute in five menacing rounds to claim the IBF 168-pound (12 stone) crown. Froch brutalized Bute and kept him in the torture chamber.

In the following days Froch, and glamorously loud partner Rachael Cordingley, did the rounds on television and radio over here, yet nowhere is Froch talked of more highly than in the camp where Great Britain's team of 10 boxers for the Olympics in London is being prepared, as a live-in team, four days a week.

That camp, at the English Institute of Sport, in Sheffield — overseen by Froch's trainer Rob McCracken and former super middleweight world champion Richie Woodhall — has also been home to Froch, who spars with the amateurs. They love him there, and the forensic set-up suits his analytic, sports science-led mind.

The attention to detail is staggering. A video team has 13,000 tapes on record of opponents' bouts from around the world. There is a life coach, a psychologist, a nutritionist (meals are specifically prepared by caloric intake), a team of physiotherapists and one cornerman who wraps every boxer for every bout, and all work painstakingly around the clock to ensure no stone is left unturned. About $15 million (£9.95 million) has been invested by UK Sport, the national funding agency, into preparing the best amateur boxing team Britain has ever produced for the Games. Froch has been friend and mentor to most.

HIGH OLYMPIC HOPES

Neck on the line here, to a certain extent, but this British team looks special, in spite of all of them being Olympic Games debutants.

GB's best ever Olympic haul (not counting 1908 in London,

Carl Froch has been a mentor to the British Olympic fighters. Image: **Andrew Yates-AFP-Getty Images**

Flyweight **Nicola Adams** (right, against **Russian Elena Savelyeva**) won the world championship earlier this summer. Image: **Feng Li-Getty Images**

when only four countries competed for 15 medals, and GB's oversized team won 14 of them) was 1956 in Melbourne, where Terry Spinks and Dick McTaggart won gold at flyweight and lightweight, respectively; Nicholas Cargano (welterweight) and Tommy Nicholls (featherweight) won silver; and John McCormack (light-middleweight) won the bronze medal.

There have been whispers of this team topping that. Seven out of the 10 are ranked No. 4 or higher in their respective weight categories, while between them they have won 20 medals at major tournaments in the past two years.

There are several standouts on the men's team — super-heavyweight Anthony Joshua, a silver medalist at the AIBA World Championships last year, in only his second major tournament; bantamweight Luke Campbell, a switch-hitter, and flyweight Andrew Selby, a southpaw, also lost narrowly in their finals at the world championships. Both are genuine prospects.

Team captain and light-welterweight Tom Stalker admitted to me that boxing had changed his life and saved him from being sent to prison for stealing cars and fighting. Stalker is ranked No. 1 in the world in his weight division.

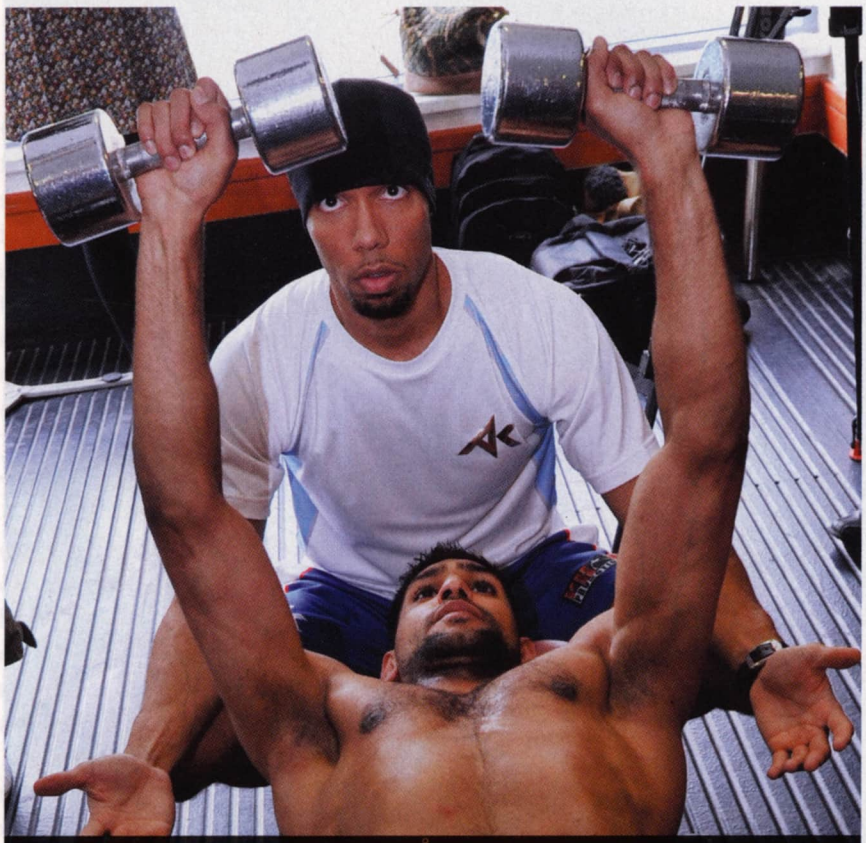
The women, appearing at the Games for the first time in London, could be sensations themselves. Bob Arum reckons women's boxing "will be laughed out of the Olympic Games." Possibly, but let's at least give them the stage to perform on before we criticize them.

GB's three women provide an interesting study. Nicola Adams, the flyweight champion at the women's world championships in China earlier this summer, has worked as an actor, a painter and a decorator and reckons she'll do the 'Ali shuffle' if she gets the opportunity at the Games.

Middleweight Savannah Marshall, also a gold medalist in China on the day of her 21st birthday, is known as "the quiet assassin" within the squad. The 6-footer is painfully shy — until she steps between the ropes. And from Liverpool's Rotunda Amateur Boxing Club,

a renowned gym in the city which has spawned Tony Bellew and the brothers Smith — Paul, Stephen, Liam and Callum — is Natasha Jonas, who runs on an empty stomach every morning in order to maintain a high metabolism throughout the day to stay at lightweight.

Jonas' father, Terry Molloy, shares the name of the fictional character played by Marlon Brando in *On the Waterfront*. We have all seen or read the story of the dock worker who had boxed and, in those famous words from Brando "coulda been a contender." Jonas's father also dabbled in boxing, and she is distantly related to Coleen



Amir Khan's new conditioning coach, **Ruben Tabares** (spotting him here), has the fighter on a strict diet. Image: **Paul Ellis-AFP-Getty Images**

Rooney, the wife of England footballer Wayne Rooney, several of whose family members have boxed.

Lightweight Jonas faces the toughest draw — against Ireland's Katie Taylor, an accomplished and brilliant multiple world champion who many feel is nailed down as a gold medalist. Time to shine for the amateurs.

KHAN: ORGANIC MAN

Amir Khan has jettisoned Alex Ariza in favor of Ruben Tabares, a conditioning coach who once had Olympic sprinting ambitions. Tabares has worked with a string of high profile clients, including actor Mickey Rourke — whom he helped prepare to portray the life of openly-gay rugby player Gareth Thomas — and British heavyweight David Haye. Amir will have adopted some unusual practices.

When Haye fought Wladimir Klitschko in Hamburg in 2011, Tabares ordered a refrigerated van-load of organic food, driven 460 miles to the German city from the English countryside. There were two reasons: *E. coli* fears, and the fact that Tabares wanted to control Haye's entire organic food and water intake during fight week.

Tabares has revealed to me that he even consults fighters on their daily stools, that he can rid fighters of lactic acids, that he makes micro-waved food off-limits — "it kills the DNA of the food" — and that several small meals are the order of the day.

Expect organic fruit, vegetables, wild sea bass, wild salmon, swordfish and organic chicken to be on Khan's daily regimen, while normal toothpaste will have been switched for an organic variety due to the sodium fluoride.

"Normal toothpaste is the main ingredient in rat poison," professes Tabares, who will also be giving Khan daily pro-biotics. "They are live cultures which give the body the tools to break the food down. I'll also make sure he has the right bacteria and enzymes in his system."

There is a notable side to this. Khan admitted there was a miscalculation on his weight drop 48 hours before the weigh-in against Lamont Peterson. He had to lose 11 pounds. Some admission. Khan has vowed it will never happen again. Tabares is *in situ* for exactly that.

STILL WAITING ON QUIGG

We are no nearer to knowing whether Scott Quigg, Ricky Hatton's junior featherweight, has what it takes to move up to world level. An accidental clash of heads with former world title contender Rendall Munroe in the third round of their interim WBA 122-pound title fight left a horizontal gash above Munroe's right eye so wide you could have stuffed a roll of dollar bills into the aperture. It was not pretty. The fight was rightly called off as a technical draw. Quigg – whose family runs a fish 'n' chips shop in Bury (pronounced "Boorie" if you're a native), once the heartland of textile manufacturing in Northern England — used to put in shifts peeling potatoes when he was younger, but his slick boxing could take him to the highest levels. The fight against a superfit Munroe, a former garbage man from Leicester, was just getting started. Great pity. ■

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The Telegraph*, London.

LEROY NEIMAN

A PERSONAL REMEMBRANCE

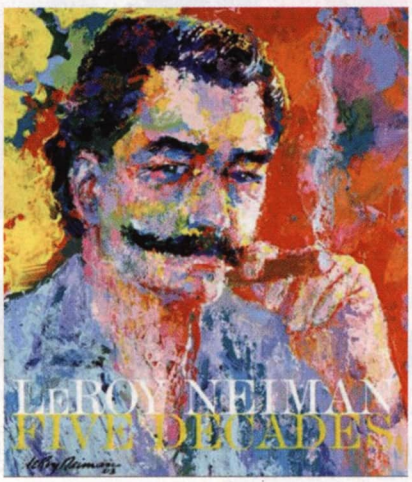
By **Thomas Hauser**

LeRoy Neiman, who died on June 20 at the age of 91, was the first artist to successfully tap into the mass media. As the decades passed, the Neiman style — with its splashes of intense color and sense of motion — became nationally known. He had a front row seat for hundreds of sporting events. He was a flamboyant presence at big fights, his Salvador Dali-like mustache every bit as distinctive as Don King's hair. Dozens of fight posters and program covers bear his work.

My own experience with Neiman dated to 1989, when I interviewed him for a biography I was writing about Muhammad Ali. I arrived at his studio as per our appointment and was met with the question, "How do I know you're for real?"

Apparently, someone had recently interviewed him for what turned out to be a non-existent project and walked out of his studio with several sketches. I produced a letter of authorization from Ali that I had brought with me for verification, and the interview began.

"I saw him in person for the first time in 1962," Neiman reminisced, thinking back on his introduction to Muhammad. "It was when he fought Billy Daniels at St. Nick's Arena. I went back to this dingy dressing room, opened the door, and there was Ali — he was Cassius Clay then — sitting by himself on a table. I asked if I could draw him and he seemed to think that was a good idea, so I sat down and started to sketch. He was golden, no hair on his body, just beautiful. He looked



like a piece of sculpture with no flaw or imperfection. His features and limbs were perfectly proportioned. He was an extraordinarily handsome, charismatic man."

Over time, Neiman became a fixture at Ali fights. On one occasion in the dressing room before a bout, Ali asked trainer Angelo Dundee to turn off the lights because he wanted to see if Neiman could sketch in the dark.

Meanwhile, after interviewing Neiman, I saw him frequently at fights and occasional social functions. He was always pleasant and polite. Despite his status in the world of art, he carried himself in a way that made him seem approachable. Thus, on the night of Jan. 15, 2000, when Roy Jones fought David Telesco at Radio City Music Hall in New York City, I approached Neiman with a request.

The University of Arkansas Press was about to publish a novel I'd written entitled *Finding The Princess*. University presses are notoriously lacking in funds to publicize their books. And a sketch of the author by LeRoy Neiman on the back of the dust jacket would ... well, you get the picture.

Neiman told me to call him at his studio on Monday. A week later, I was sitting in front of the master.

"It bothers me that people don't go to museums," he said as he reached for a pastel. "Painters read books. Maybe you can tell me: Why don't more writers go to museums?"

Ten minutes after starting, he decided that he didn't like the direction in which he was going, put the first sheet of paper aside, and began anew ... an orange pastel ... burnt umber. "Got to get the hair right," he said. "And I want a serious look."

The finished product was more than a sketch. "A study," he called it.

Finding the Princess was published later that year. I smile whenever I look at the dust jacket.

LeRoy Neiman was an American institution. He was also a nice man. The boxing scene was more fun because he was part of it. ■

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at **thauser@rcn.com**. His newest book (*And the New ... : An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*) will be published later this summer by the University of Arkansas Press.

Heavyweight **Dereck Chisora** leaves little doubt as to which country he represents. Image: **Martin McNeil-Getty Images**

HEIRS APPARENT

THE KLITSCHKOS OWN THE HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION BUT A STRONG GROUP OF BRITS WAITS IN THE WINGS

By **Gavin Evans**

There was a time when Britain's big men were a running joke in American boxing circles.

The small island's reputation for "horizontal heavyweights" goes back to the 1920s when "Phainting Phil Scott" would roll on his back and clutch his groin whenever a legitimate body blow landed, and for the next seven decades this image stuck. British challengers included the pathetic (Brian London, Richard Dunn), the worthy (Tommy Farr, Don Cockell, Henry Cooper) and the boring (Joe Bugner) but all ended in failure. And then there was Frank Bruno, whose moment of success in outpointing the fragile Oliver McCall was overshadowed by failures against Tim Witherspoon, Mike Tyson (twice) and Lennox Lewis.

The London-born Lewis changed all this, and even though he first learned his trade in Canada, he at least won the British title before conquering the world. When he bowed out as reigning world champion 10 years ago, he'd earned the grudging respect of an American fight fraternity that had run out of local heroes. But Lewis' departure left

the heavyweight landscape in a fractured, weakened state, with the hegemony of the Klitschko brothers so absolute that the division seemed devoid of worthy challenges.

Today it is tempting to apply Frank Zappa's observation about jazz to boxing's premier weight class — it isn't dead, but it sure smells a little funny. Tempting, until you take a sniff of the sweet smells coming from the land of the horizontals. Not since Lewis strode the globe have Britain's big boys received so much attention.

Currently top of the pile, for not exactly salubrious reasons, are David Haye and Dereck Chisora.

The 6-foot-2, 210-pound Haye, a former world cruiserweight champion, was doing splendidly on his slim heavyweight résumé because of his explosive, flashy style, good looks and creative range of insults. He danced his way to victory against the gargantuan Nikolai Valuev for the WBA belt and flattened John Ruiz and Audley Harrison (a horizontal in classic British tradition). But when it came to walking the walk against Wladimir Klitschko, he preferred to leg it, blaming failure on a broken toe.

You might think that Zimbabwe-born, British-raised Chisora had even less claim to being one half of Britain's "Fight of the Century." Sure, he's strong and busy with good head movement, a firm chin and plenty of heart, but in his unpredictable way he gives the impression of having several screws loose. His many misdemeanours include a suspension for biting an opponent and a criminal conviction for assaulting his girlfriend.

Still, he usually managed to hold it together in the ring. He stopped Danny Williams for the British title and Sam Sexton for the Commonwealth belt, but when a proposed shot at Wladimir Klitschko twice fell through, he came in overweight and undertrained against Tyson Fury, losing decisively. Somehow, his promoter, Frank Warren, managed to secure him a shot at the European title held by Robert Helenius. A slimmed-down Chisora outworked the high-flying Finn, but the home-cooked split verdict went the other way.

This performance convinced Vitali Klitschko to grant Chisora a shot at his WBC title, and although the 6-foot-1½, 241-pound Londoner was soundly outpointed by a 40-year-old who fought with an injured left shoulder, he did better than expected. What happened outside of the ring, however, is what delivered the July 14 date with Haye. Chisora landed a hard slap to Vitali's cheek in a pre-fight stare-down, then spat a mouthful of water at Wladimir, setting the tone for the finale.

Haye, who'd announced his comeback with the sole aim of fighting a Klitschko, turned up at the post-fight press conference and called out Vitali. Chisora, who'd previously threatened to slap Haye, repeated the threat,

BRITAIN'S BEST

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BRITISH HEAVYWEIGHTS

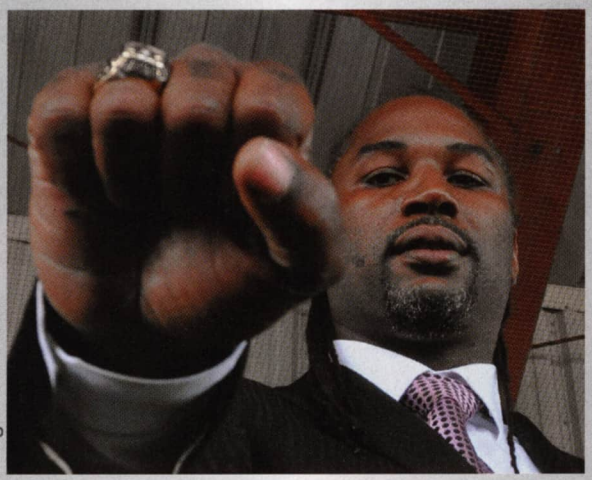


Image: Jeff Julian

1. LENNOX LEWIS

BORN: Sept 2, 1965
BIRTHPLACE: London
RECORD: 41-2-1 (32 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-5 / 227-250
TITLES: World 1999-01; 2001-04; WBC 1993-4; 1997-9. (15-2-1 in title bouts.)
SIGNATURE WINS: Riddick Bowe TKO 2 (1988 Olympic finals); Razor Ruddock TKO 2 (1992); Frank Bruno TKO 7 (1993); Tommy Morrison TKO 6 (1995); Ray Mercer W10 (1996); Oliver McCall TKO 5 (1997); Andrew Golota KO 1 (1997); Evander Holyfield W 12 (1999); David Tua W12 (2000); Hassim Rahman KO 4 (2001); Mike Tyson KO 8 (2002) Vitali Klitschko TKO 6 (2003).

SUMMARY: Beat everyone he faced, unified world title, wiped out available opposition, avenged only two defeats.

2. DAVID HAYE

BORN: Oct 13, 1980
BIRTHPLACE: London
RECORD: 25-2 (23 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-2, 198-222
TITLES: WBA 2009-11; world cruiserweight champion 2007-08.
SIGNATURE WINS: Monte Barrett TKO 5 (2008); Nikolay Valuev W12 (2009); John Ruiz TKO 9 (2010).

SUMMARY: Speedy, explosive Londoner won kudos for five heavyweight wins but reputation damaged by losing timidly to Wladimir Klitschko, for which he blamed a broken toe.

3. FRANK BRUNO

BORN: Nov 16, 1961
BIRTHPLACE: Hammersmith, England
RECORD: 40-5 (38 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-3, 230-248
TITLES: WBC 1995-96
SIGNATURE WINS: Gerrie Coetzee KO 1 (1986); James Tillis TKO 3 (1987); Pierre Coetzer TKO 8 (1992); Carl Williams TKO 10 (1992); Oliver McCall W12 (1995).

SUMMARY: Powerful but vulnerable puncher, much loved in Britain, finally won the WBC title on his 4th attempt.

Tyson Fury (here in his victory over **Dereck Chisora**) is becoming a celebrity because of his size and personality ... and he can fight. Image: **Martin McNeil-Getty Images**

removed his jacket and went after his man. But Haye got in first, dropping Chisora (with a punch, not the bottle he was holding). Chisora's trainer climbed in and got clocked, and when several more of his entourage entered the fray, Haye picked up a tripod and began swinging, hitting his own trainer, Adam Booth. Meanwhile, Chisora was screaming blue murder, claiming he'd get a gun and shoot Haye. The YouTube video of this sequence attracted more than 10 million hits.

The British Boxing Board of Control suspended Chisora but promoter Frank Warren decided this unprecedented excitement was too good to ignore, so he bypassed the Board by getting the fight sanctioned by Luxembourg, enticed Haye with a reported $5.54-million (including his share of anticipated television money) and within a single day 17,000 of the 38,000 seats at London's Upton Park stadium had been sold.

To give a taste of the elevated tone of this encounter, Haye promised to deliver a "slow, concussive beating" and has since promoted an iPhone game that shows

him "bottling" someone like Chisora, who in turn has threatened to "choke Haye to death."

If, as expected, the quicker, harder-hitting and more elusive Haye prevails, he will be back in the mix — a major drawing card once more, which might be enough to secure him a shot a Klitschko despite the current impasse. But if Haye and Chisora don't make it, two other British big men are baying for attention: Fury and David Price.

Fury, 24, is a gift to the celebrity-starved British fight media. He stands almost 6-foot-9, has a ruggedly handsome face and a name that sounds made up. He comes from Irish travelling stock, tells a wonderful story and knows how to sell himself. But none of this would help much if he couldn't fight.

His assets, which have taken him through 18 straight wins (13 knockouts), include good hand speed for a giant, decent footwork and sharp reflexes. Although he's inclined to arm-punch, his size and strength mean he carries a fair whack. Add to that a big fighting heart and the ability to adapt — for example, last time out (a fifth-round stoppage of Martin Rogan) he boxed southpaw before ending it with a perfectly placed hook to the body.

But Fury is not always in mint condition (his weight has ranged between a relatively svelte 245 pounds and a lardy 270). One problem is his love of junk food. Another is that he suffers from depression, which sometimes interrupts his training. And he has a traveller's inclination to move from trainer to trainer (five so far), which means he's never had a sustained learning spell, so weaknesses have lingered.

He's too open to an overhand right (dropped by a right from the previously unbeaten Canadian Nevin Pajkic, wobbled by Nikolai Firtha and twice shaken by Chisora). He often uses his jab as a feeler, which allows opponents to crowd him, and he has yet to learn to put all his weight behind his punches. In his early fights, he liked to throw combinations, but this dimension seems to have been lost.

Fury periodically trains in Brendan Ingle's famous Sheffield gym, sparring with the similarly-sized prospect Richard Towers.

"He's a great prospect," Ingle says. "You've got to nail him to the floor to beat him, his conditioning is better than before and I like the way he's started switch-hitting. But he needs to snap his jab more – not paw with it – and to throw hooks and uppercuts off the jab and to tighten up his body more, like David Price."

While Fury talks of world conquest, Liverpool's Price is the man his fans would most like to see in the opposite corner. They fought in 2006, when Fury

BRITAIN'S BEST

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BRITISH HEAVYWEIGHTS

Image: THE RING

4. GARY MASON

BORN: Dec 15, 1962
BIRTHPLACE: Jamaica
RECORD: 37-1 (34 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-1 ½, 235-248
TITLES: British champion 1989-91
SIGNATURE WINS: Alonzo Ratliff TKO 6 (1988); James Tillis TKO 5 (1988); Tyrell Biggs KO 7 (1989); James Pritchard TKO 9 (1990).

SUMMARY: Heavy-handed Londoner was in the world rankings for several years. Fought Lewis on even terms until eye damage ended the fight and his career.

5. HENRY AKINWANDE

BORN: Oct 12, 1965
BIRTHPLACE: London
RECORD: 50-4-1 (30 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-7, 224-238
TITLES: WBO 1996-97
SIGNATURE WINS: Axel Schulz W 12 (1993); Tony Tucker W10 (1995); Jeremy Williams KO 3 (1996); Orlin Norris W12 (1997).

SUMMARY: The elusive Akinwande was unbeaten in 33 when he challenged Lewis. Disqualified for holding, but remained contender for four more years.

6. TOMMY FARR

BORN: March 12, 1913
BIRTHPLACE: Clydach Vale, Wales
RECORD: 84-31-16 (24 KOs, 2 NCs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-1, 191–207
TITLES: British and Commonwealth champion 1937
SIGNATURE WINS: Tommy Loughran W10 (1936); Bob Olin W10 (1936); Ben Foord W15 (1937); Max Baer W12 (1937); Walter Neusel KO 3 (1937); Larry Gains TKO 6 (1939).

SUMMARY: Rugged, well-schooled Welshman who earned his chance with an unbeaten run of 20 and gave Joe Louis a hard fight, winning six rounds on one judge's card.

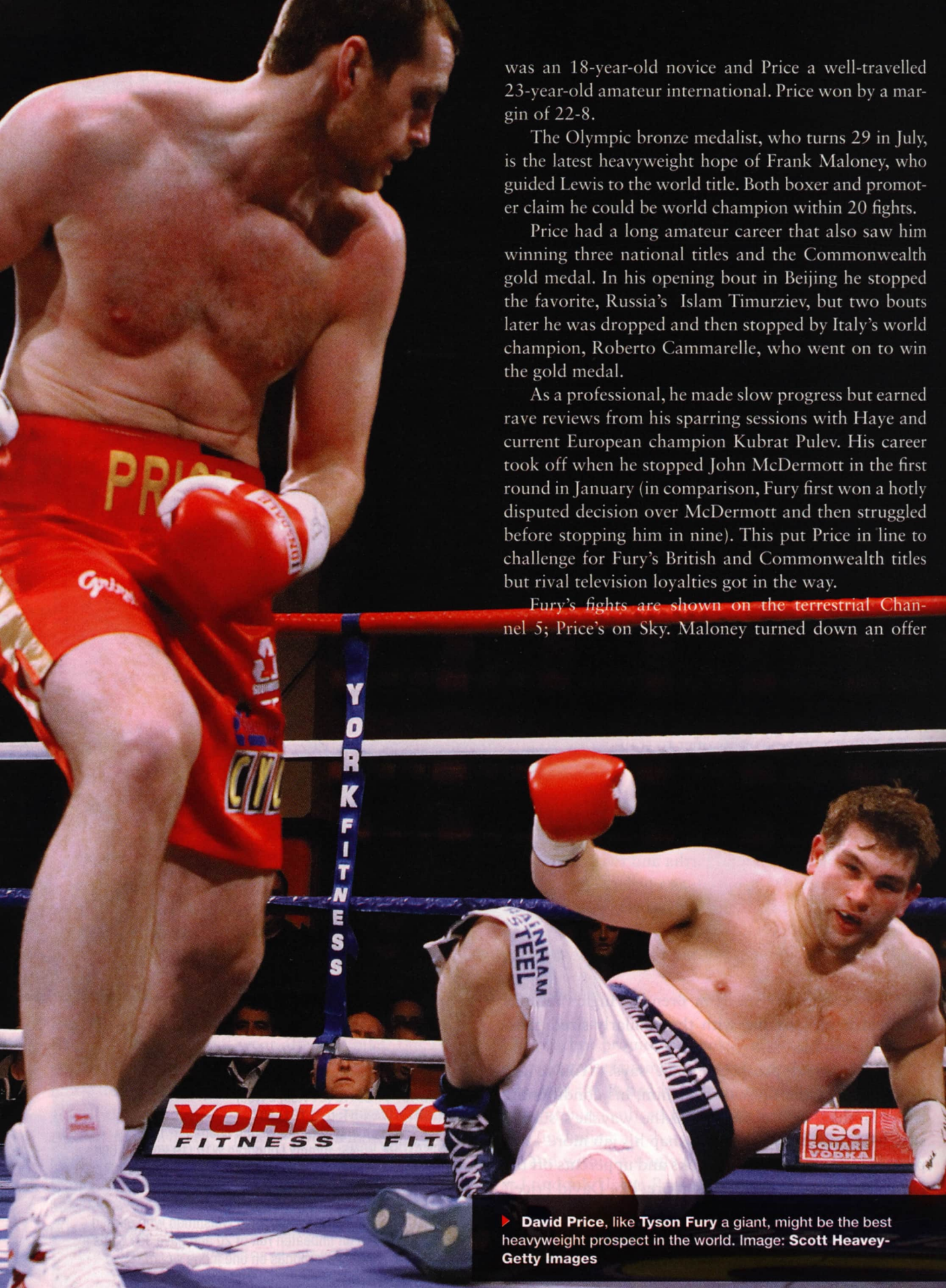
was an 18-year-old novice and Price a well-travelled 23-year-old amateur international. Price won by a margin of 22-8.

The Olympic bronze medalist, who turns 29 in July, is the latest heavyweight hope of Frank Maloney, who guided Lewis to the world title. Both boxer and promoter claim he could be world champion within 20 fights.

Price had a long amateur career that also saw him winning three national titles and the Commonwealth gold medal. In his opening bout in Beijing he stopped the favorite, Russia's Islam Timurziev, but two bouts later he was dropped and then stopped by Italy's world champion, Roberto Cammarelle, who went on to win the gold medal.

As a professional, he made slow progress but earned rave reviews from his sparring sessions with Haye and current European champion Kubrat Pulev. His career took off when he stopped John McDermott in the first round in January (in comparison, Fury first won a hotly disputed decision over McDermott and then struggled before stopping him in nine). This put Price in line to challenge for Fury's British and Commonwealth titles but rival television loyalties got in the way.

Fury's fights are shown on the terrestrial Channel 5; Price's on Sky. Maloney turned down an offer



David Price, like **Tyson Fury** a giant, might be the best heavyweight prospect in the world. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

from Fury's promoter, Mick Hennessey, and Hennessey avoided the risk of purse bids. Price then fought for the vacated British title and looked impressive in stopping the former British champion Sam Sexton in four rounds, taking his record to 13-0 (11 KOs).

At 6-foot-8, 245-pounds, Price is almost the same size as Fury, but unlike his rival, he always enters the ring in impeccable shape. With his vast amateur experience, he's exceptionally well-schooled, with a thumping jab and an extremely heavy right cross. A possible weakness is his chin, which seemed to let him down against Cammarelle.

British pundits tend to favor Price's discipline, schooling and power over Fury's speed and natural flare, but the two behemoths will be kept apart – at least until one holds a clear edge in negotiating power.

On that score, Hennessey says his charge will be ready for a world title shot by April 2013: "We're eying the Klitschkos already but the best way forward is for Tyson to continue to build up his name on terrestrial television and become a mandatory challenger."

However, it is Price who seems to be closer to the Klitschko radar. "I think David is doing an incredible job – I see myself in him," Wladimir Klitschko said. "He is a couple of inches taller than I am, but his technique is pretty much the same, so there are certain similarities between us, and Emmanuel Steward always points them out. Maybe David and I are going to end up fighting. I will not exclude him from my list of possible opponents."

And if Price, Fury, Haye and Chisora all fail to make it, there are several other rising British-based heavyweights knocking on the door.

Top of the pile is Ingle's 6-foot-8, 240-pound Towers. His progress was interrupted by a long jail term, but he turned professional at 29 in 2009 and has picked up 14 straight wins (11 knockouts), showing agility, sharp reflexes and impressive power.

"He's sparred with most of the top heavyweights in Britain, and let's say he's more than held his own," says Ingle.

Also on the British scene are the short, powerful Irish-based Cuban 26-year-old Mike Perez (18-0, 12 KOs) and several unbeaten newcomers, the most promising of whom are the 6-foot-7, 25-year-old Scot Gary Cornish (8-0, 3 KOs) and the 24-year-old Londoner Dillian Whyte (6-0, 3 KOs).

So while the heavyweight division is moribund in America and top heavy in Europe, it is thriving in Britain. Some of them, no doubt, will end up horizontal but there should be plenty more fun and games before the current bubble bursts. ■

BRITAIN'S BEST

ALL-TIME TOP 10 BRITISH HEAVYWEIGHTS

7. HENRY COOPER

BORN: May 3, 1934
BIRTHPLACE: London
RECORD: 40-14-1 (27 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-1, 185-195
TITLES: British and Commonwealth champion 1959-71; European champion 1968-71. Signature wins: Zora Folley W10 (1958); Roy Harris W10 (1960); Karl Mildenberger WDQ 8 (1968); Jose Urtain TKO 9 (1970).

SUMMARY: Hugely popular Cockney's finest hour came in dropping Ali with his potent left hook in 1963. Aggressive boxer-puncher but too small for the elite and cut too easily.

8. HERBIE HIDE

BORN: Aug 27, 1971
BIRTHPLACE: Owerri, Nigeria
RECORD: 49-4 (43 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-2, 198-223
TITLES: WBO 1994-95, 1997-99.
SIGNATURE WINS: James Pritchard TKO 2 (1992), Michael Bentt KO 7 (1994); Tony Tucker TKO 2 (1997).

SUMMARY: Quick-fisted with explosive power and soft chin. Fell short against the elite but was always dangerous. Returned to cruiserweight late in his career and went unbeaten in 14.

9. BRUCE WOODCOCK

BORN: Jan 18, 1921
BIRTHPLACE: Doncaster, England
RECORD: 35-4 (31 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 6-0½, 182-197
TITLES: British, European and Commonwealth champion 1945-50
SIGNATURE WINS: Freddie Mills W15; KO 14 (1946, 49); Gus Lesnevich KO 8 (1946); Lee Oma KO 4 (1948), Lee Savold WDQ 4 (1948).

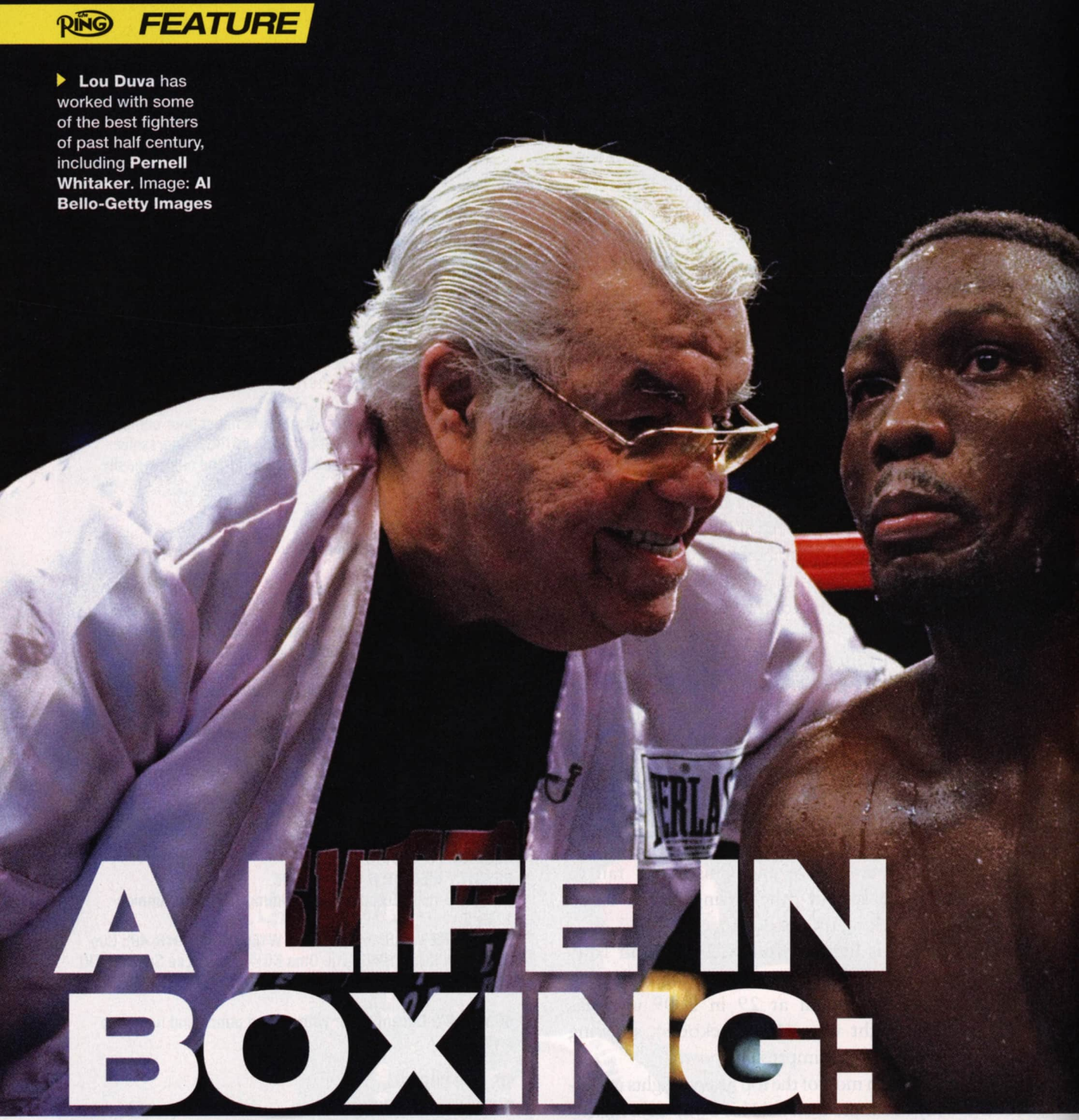
SUMMARY: Decent boxer with a good punch and immense courage.

10. DON COCKELL

BORN: Sept 22, 1928
BIRTHPLACE: London
RECORD: 66-14-1 (38 KOs)
HEIGHT / WEIGHT: 5-11, 175-211
TITLES: British and Commonwealth champion 1953-55
SIGNATURE WINS: Tommy Farr TKO 7 (1953); Harry Matthews W12, W10, WRTD 7 (1953, 54); Roland LaStarza W10 (1954).

SUMMARY: Skillful light heavyweight contender but weight troubles forced him to move up and after 10 wins he challenged Marciano and lasted nine rounds of persistent fouling.

NOTE: Bob Fitzsimmons is excluded because he left England at seven and never returned.



Lou Duva has worked with some of the best fighters of past half century, including **Pernell Whitaker**. Image: **Al Bello-Getty Images**

A LIFE IN BOXING: LOU DUVA AT 90

By **Ron Borges**

For decades Lou Duva was the face of a family business – the boxing business. He had the right face for it.

Gnarled like a tree stump that had seen harsh winters, Duva was often said to resemble Fred Flintstone, the animated caveman figure in a popular 1960s TV show. For decades that face was one of the most recognizable in sports.

As the patriarch of a family that broke the stranglehold promoters Don King and Bob Arum had held on prizefighting throughout the '70s and into the '80s, Lou Duva *was* boxing to fight fans in what many feel may have been its last Golden Age, a time before the sport began to slip out of the general public's consciousness.

That was never quite his aim but that's how things worked out, in part through sheer luck but mostly through a lover's obsession with a sport that doesn't often love you back with quite the same ardor.

"Boxing was in my father's blood," says Dino Duva, his son and long-time field worker on his father's boxing acreage. "In the 1970s, once he went into it full-time and brought us all into it, it became his life. Before that he did other things like bail bondsman and the trucking business or working for the union but he was in those businesses to earn a living. Boxing is where his heart was."

On May 28 that heart was still beating strong as Duva turned 90, an age few who knew him or watched him engage in bombastic verbal battles with referees, judges, promoters, opposing cornermen and occasionally even fighters would have believed possible. It was a fighter's heart and still is.

"It just goes to show it doesn't matter what you eat or drink or how mad you get," joked one of his greatest creations, former cruiserweight and four-time heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield. "It's amazing, really. He always fought for his fighters, even if he wasn't in great shape to do it."

To find himself still around after all those years at the fights came as a shock even to the guy who handled 19 world champions, worked corners in over 20 countries on six continents and founded a business that, like even the greatest fighters, couldn't stay on top forever but once reached the pinnacle of the world's most demanding sport.

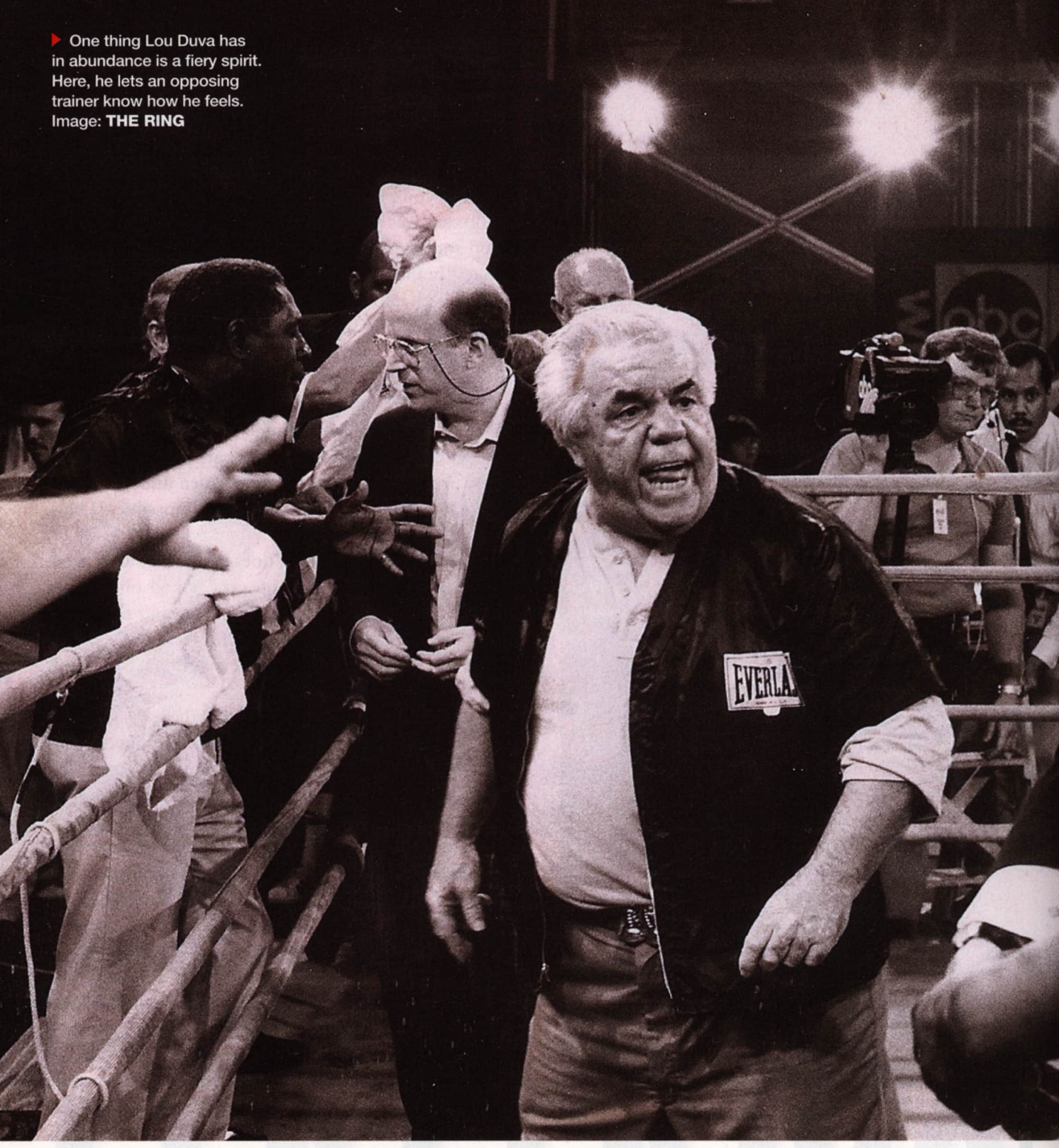
"Isn't it something?" Duva said of having lasted so long in boxing's harsh landscape. "Who could believe I'd be 90? I don't know how I made it but my heart was always in boxing.

"I did what I loved to do and my family came along with me. We never thought we'd be anything but successful with the fighters but I never thought one day we'd have all those world champions, either. I put on fights because I liked fights."

Duva came from the kind of Italian neighborhoods in first New York's Little Italy and later Paterson, N.J., that don't exist anymore. The kind of neighborhoods that liked fights, too – and had plenty of them.

It was his older brother Carl who first introduced him to the magic of the gym, taking him to Stillman's in the 1930s when Carl trained there. Although Duva has traveled the world because of boxing it is fair to say he never really left that first corner at Stillman's.

"My brother was a tough guy," Duva recalled. "I'd pack his gym bag and then wait for him to get home. He worked in a dye factory all day and then he trained



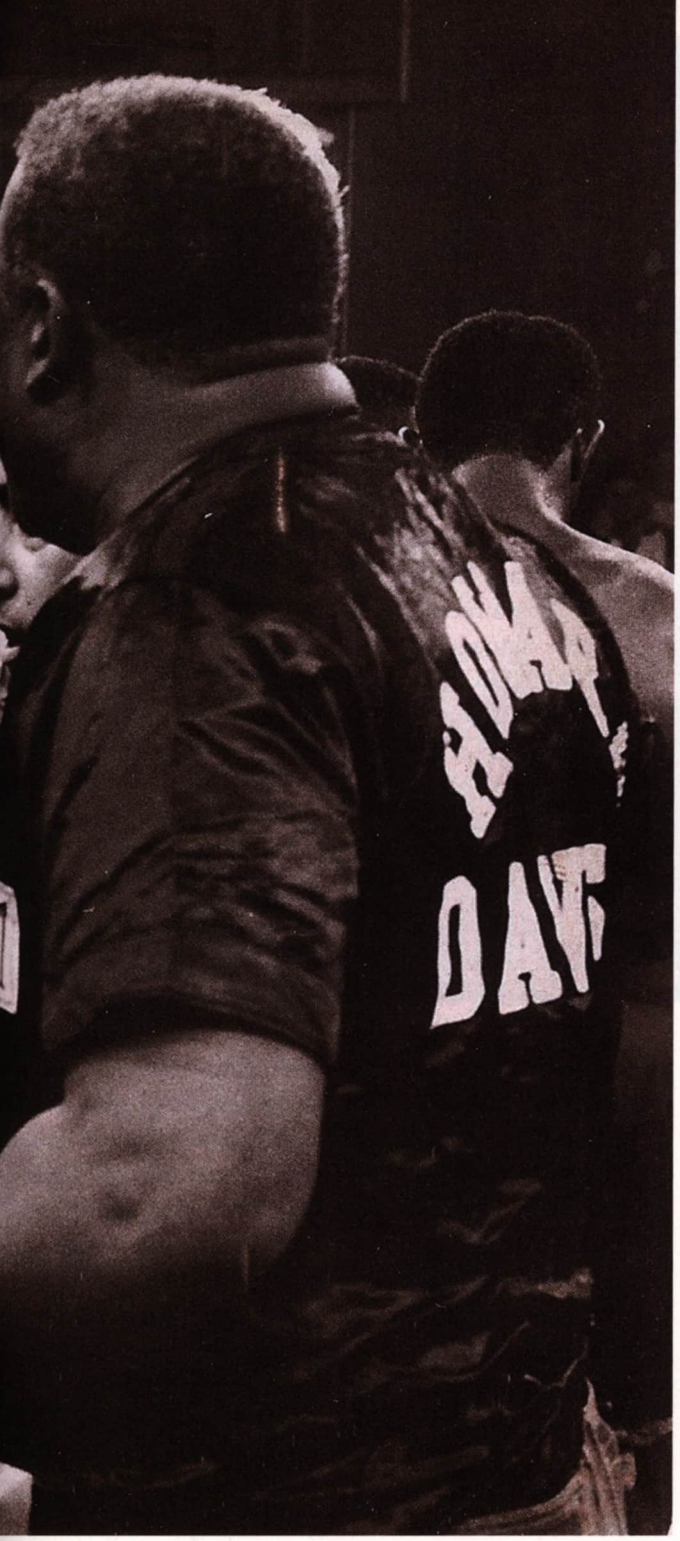
One thing Lou Duva has in abundance is a fiery spirit. Here, he lets an opposing trainer know how he feels. Image: **THE RING**

at night. Fighters back then didn't have the luxury a lot of guys have today. They worked a job then trained.

"I used to love going to the gym with him, seeing all the famous fighters. I loved the smell of the place. I loved the sounds. I loved the people: the wise guys, the managers, the old trainers and of course the fighters. I never stopped loving it."

As a kid he would hitchhike to training camps around New Jersey and up in the Poconos and the Catskills, striking up a friendship with a young Italian fighter who would eventually make a name for himself despite having only the rawest of skills when he began boxing.

Duva and Rocky Marciano became lifelong friends in boxing, but before they'd ever met, Duva had begun an apprenticeship he didn't even know he'd signed on for. He began to learn in the gyms of New York and the training camps of dozens of fighters the dark art of boxing from a cornerman's perspective.



"He'd go in there and watch," Dino Duva said. "He'd spend all the time he could listening to the old trainers. He was learning a trade really."

Duva boxed briefly during World War II, going 5-7-1 as a middleweight between 1942 and 1945 after a brief and unhappy time in the Army before accepting that inside the ropes was not where he would make his mark. Some men, the immortals, come out of those corners to make a name in boxing. Lou Duva worked corners as part of one of the finest teams in boxing history when he, former middleweight contender George Benton and cut man Ace Marotta ruled their side of the ring together in the service of boxers like Holyfield, Joey Giardello, Pernell Whitaker, Meldrick Taylor, Mark Breland, Arturo Gatti, Mike McCallum, Fernando Vargas, Michael Moorer, Tyrell Biggs, Bobby Czyz, Johnny Bumphus, Rocky Lockridge, Vinny Paz, Tony Ayala Jr. and later Lennox Lewis, George Foreman, Hector Camacho, Andrew Golota and many others.

"They may have been the best corner ever," said Carl Moretti, an executive with Bob Arum's Top Rank Boxing who once worked for Duva as well as Bobby Goodman at Garden State Boxing as a matchmaker. "You had a distinct advantage with those three guys in your corner.

"George was the head trainer. For two hours a day in the gym he was the best guy. Lou was the father figure, the baby sitter and the motivator. He was the voice the fighters listened to and heard.

"Ace was the guy in charge of blood. There was no cut he couldn't stop. That was a true professional corner."

Veteran trainer and ESPN fight analyst Teddy Atlas agrees. Although Duva made millions with his promotional company, Main Events, the business side of boxing never enthralled him. That was left to his son, Dan, a brilliant contract lawyer and negotiator whose acumen lifted a small company running shows at an ice rink in Totowa, N.J., to international prominence.

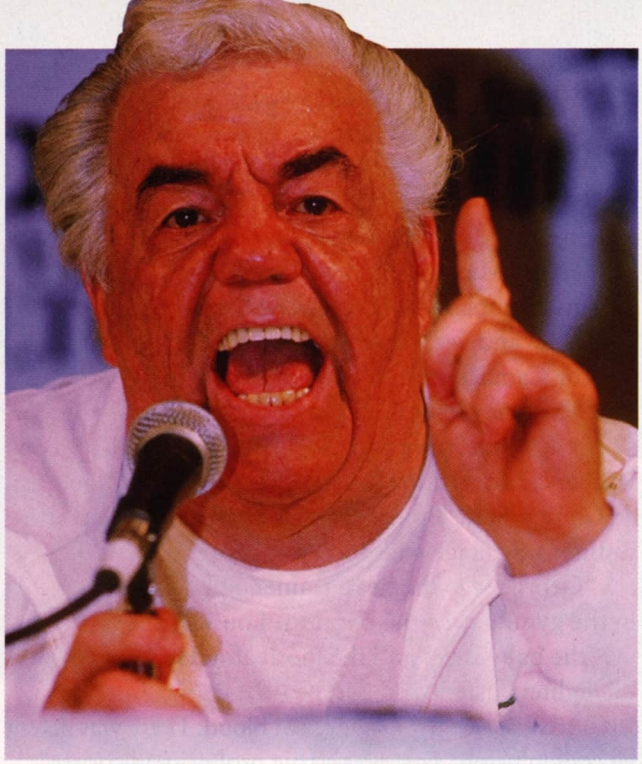
"Lou understood what he was but he also understood what he wasn't," Atlas said. "George had been a great fighter. A great fighter. He was a great trainer too. Lou understood that.

"George was the trainer. Lou was the assistant. They worked on strategy together but George was in charge there. Ace was one of the best cut men ever. Lou understood that. He didn't get in his way.

"And George and Ace understood what Lou was. Lou was a great motivator. He was great in the corner on fight night. The fighters listened to him. If George had something to say, he'd say it, but mostly it was Lou's voice.

"He liked being out front and he was good at it. And he was good dealing with all the things George wasn't good at dealing with. Their fighters knew Lou was in there battling for them. He was really good working the referees. I remember one time he was working with me in a Moorer fight and I was waving a cell phone in the corner telling Michael his kid was on the phone and wanted to know why his Dad wasn't fighting.

"One of the inspectors tried to come and take the phone away because you're not supposed to have phones in the corner. I didn't care. I was trying to help my fighter. Lou got between us and told the guy, 'He's calling out for Chinese. If we got to watch this shit we might as well



Lou Duva speaks his mind in front of the cameras.
Image: **Ken Levine-Getty Images**

get something to eat.' The inspector laughed and left us alone. That was the edge you had with Lou."

Not every team could work so fluidly or stay together for so long, egos bumping into egos as the exposure grew and the fights got bigger. That never happened with Duva, Benton and Marotta, however.

Surely they may have had their moments and certainly Duva and Marotta often bickered like a long-married couple, which in a sense they were because they went back so many years in New Jersey fight circles. But they became one of the greatest corners in boxing because none of that mattered to them. All that mattered was the fighter on the stool.

"We never took anything for granted, including each other," Lou Duva recalled. "George and I would talk during the round. George knew my voice meant a lot in the corner but he was giving me the instructions and I listened. I knew how great a trainer he was.

"We confided in one another. We spoke in the best interest of our fighter. It all started with George and me when a guy named Joe Cloud in Tacoma had three amateurs he wanted us to take on. At the time George was having some problems and I wanted him to train those kids. I went and met him and in one afternoon of eating and drinking we made a deal. Funny thing is, we never had an argument between us.

"There were no egos. No animosity. We respected each other. George was absolutely underrated as a trainer. He was a brilliant boxing guy. He could choreograph a whole fight weeks before it happened.

"Ace and George Benton were part of my family. I don't think too many groups of men who called themselves fight guys did it with the respect we had for each other. No one tried to upstage the other or embarrass the other. We lost together and won together."

For years Duva ran club shows out of Ice World, where he didn't make much money but his entire family was involved. They sold the tickets. They sold the popcorn. They sold the fights. They began to get some fighters on ESPN's *Friday Night Fights* working with Lockridge, Czyz, Bumphus and Livingstone Bramble and by the late 1970s their family business started to grow.

Those fighters would become their first champions under the Main Events banner, first unfurled in 1978 after Dan Duva received a $500,000 fee for legal work helping the manager of Leon Spinks.

In 1980, NBC launched a boxing program called *Tomorrow's Champions*, which included some of the U.S. Olympians on the team that boycotted the Games at the insistence of President Jimmy Carter. The bulk of those fighters worked under Duva's direction: Ayala, Bumphus, Alex Ramos and Tony Tucker.

Former rock promoter Shelly Finkel had helped provide the financial backing to sign them, forming a partnership with Duva and Main Events that would, four years later, land the biggest and most talented group of Olympic boxers in history.

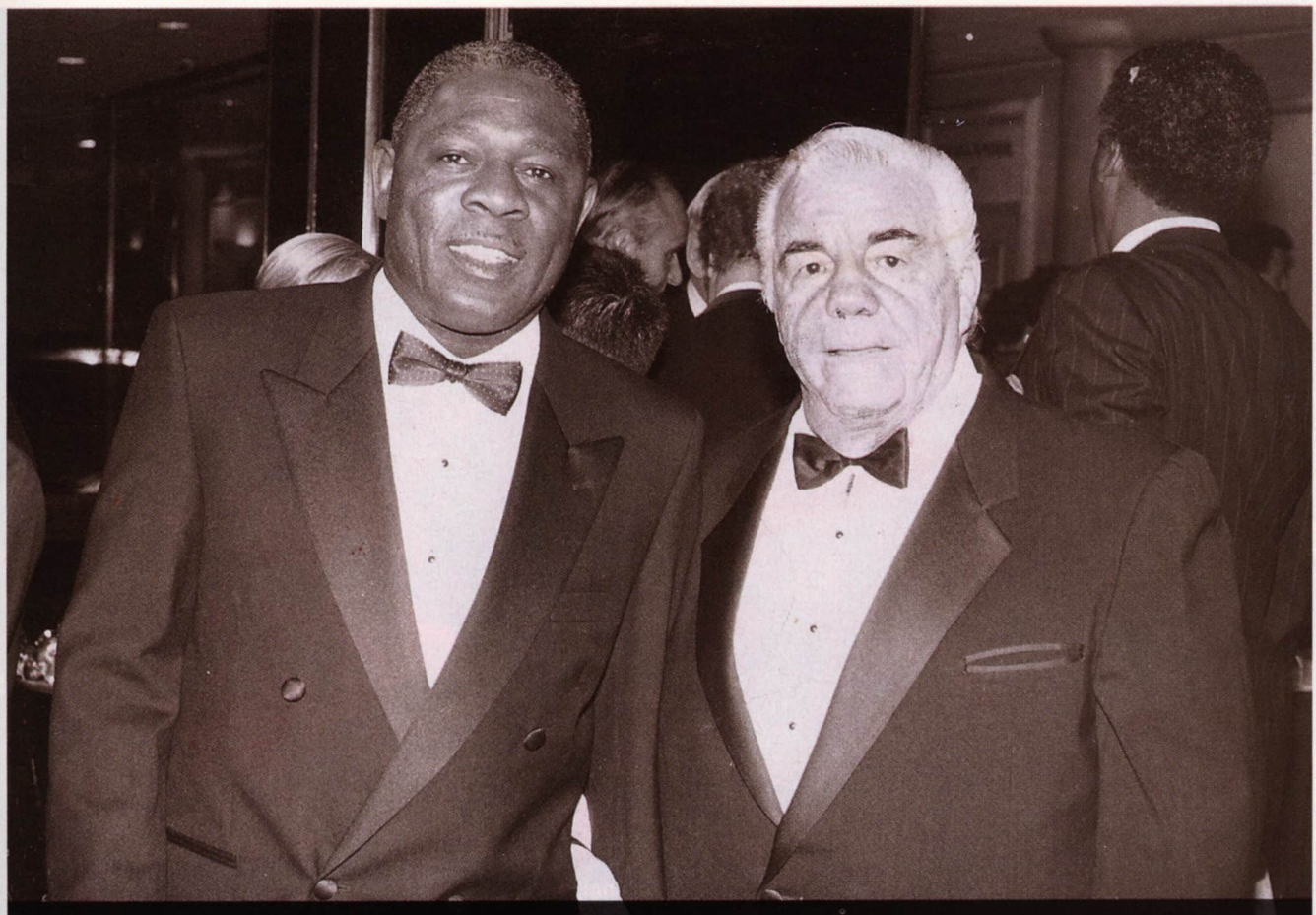
But before those signings and a year after *Tomorrow's Champions* began, Dan Duva convinced a lawyer named Mike Trainer, who handled Sugar Ray Leonard's affairs, to allow his fledgling company to promote Leonard's first fight with Thomas Hearns. It became the largest grossing non-heavyweight fight in history, bringing in $40 million and suddenly elevating Duva's company from a Mom and Pop shop to a rival of King and Arum.

By 1984, Main Events had become Main Events-Monitor, a promotional powerhouse funded in part by two Connecticut real estate developers and Finkel and run by Dan Duva, yet it was Lou who was the face of the company.

"Main Events would have never become Main Events if not for Lou Duva," Moretti said. "He was the heart and soul of Main Events. If you don't have that, you don't have anything.

"If Lou had stayed at Ice World, he'd have been happy. Then the money came in and the business changed."

That year, four of their fighters won world championships — Bumphus, Lockridge, McCallum and Bramble — and they signed Holyfield, Taylor, Whitaker, Breland and Biggs off one of the greatest U.S. Olympic boxing teams ever assembled.



Duva and **George Benton** were a formidable training tandem. Image: **THE RING**

Those fighters became the bedrock of Main Events for more than a decade and Lou Duva became a cultural icon as well as the manager of some of the best fighters in the world.

"There's no question he's one of the greatest cornermen ever," said rival promoter and former HBO sports executive Lou DiBella, who dealt with Duva and Main Events as both a purchaser of major TV fights for HBO and as a competitor. "He could detect things in a fighter. He was sly. A number of times he did ugly things to distract a referee but it worked for his fighter and it made him famous in his own right.

"Lou left the business to Dan. He liked jumping in the ring. Going up and down those three steps. He took care of the fighters and he loved hanging out with his crew. There are guys who become celebrity trainers. He became a celebrity but he never really changed. He took the same joy working with some young kid as he did working with Pernell or Holyfield. It was all the same to him because it was boxing.

"He loves the *sport* of boxing. They had that '84 Olympic class and that forever changed Main Events. The business of boxing he wasn't interested in once they became big and were making a lot of money but in many ways they couldn't have done it without Lou.

"Dan was not exactly Mr. Congeniality. When fighters thought about Main Events they weren't thinking about Dan Duva. Lou was the face of that company. When he walked through an airport or into a gym that's who people noticed. He became a household name, mostly through their success with the heavyweights like Holyfield and Lennox Lewis, and he loved that."

Truth be told, Lou Duva loved the big stage and he was a star on it, but had it never happened that wouldn't have changed the way he felt about his sport.

In later years, after the passing of his son Dan at 44 from a brain tumor in 1996, a fracture occurred at Main Events that for a time became an ugly family feud. They ended up in court less than four years later, Duva and his son and daughter battling Kathy Duva, his daughter-in-law, for control of the business. But she controlled the stock after her husband's death and that was that.

Before the split, she had stepped aside for a time first to attend law school and later to fight her own battle with breast cancer, letting Dino Duva take over. He did the best he could but admits he was never his brother when it came to contracts and the hard side of

Lou Duva (with **Pernell Whitaker**) also knows how to have fun. Image: **THE RING**

the business and he battled his own personal problems for a while. Slowly the business began to slide.

By late 1999, Kathy Duva was ready to close the doors, claiming the company was a month from bankruptcy despite having staged Lewis-Holyfield and Felix Trinidad-Whitaker. Their fighters had hit a losing streak at a time when overhead was high and income was not. She opted to downsize Main Events into what is today a thriving regional promotional company that works not far from its roots at Ice World and stages shows at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

Lou Duva has no hand in that and little hand in boxing anymore. For a while, he and his son and daughter formed Duva Boxing after their legal challenge resulted in a settlement, but they were never quite able to regain the magic or land the kind of fighters they'd once had back when they ruled the sport. Something was missing. The magic was gone.

"I don't mind saying this," Dino Duva explained. "My brother was a brilliant guy but he didn't have the greatest personality. When a fighter signed he signed with Lou Duva and his family. We wouldn't have signed half the fighters we had if it weren't for my father. That's the truth.

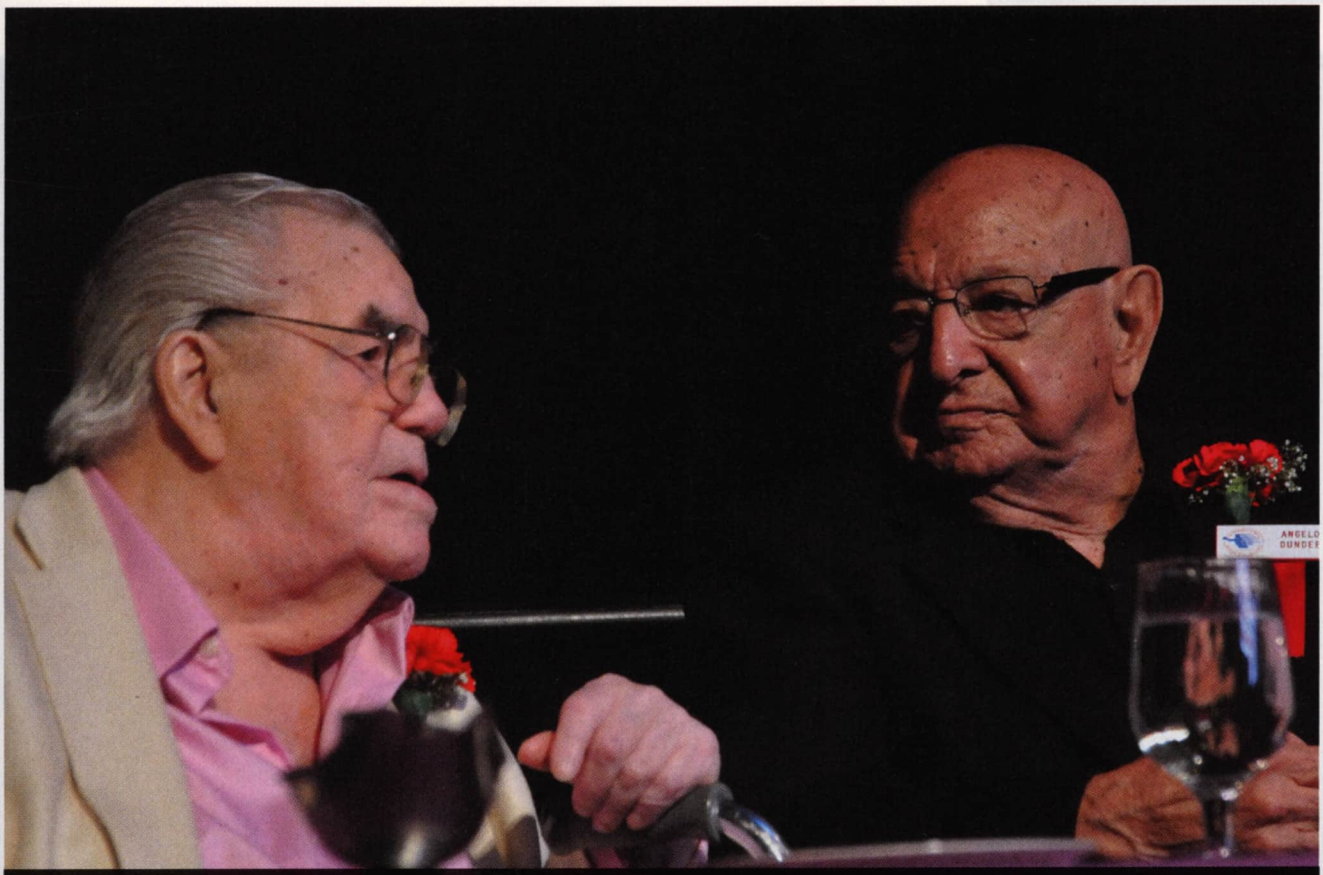
"Even after the business grew and Main Events became this promotional powerhouse there was only one Lou Duva. Dan was brilliant with contracts and cutting deals but timing was important. We came along when a lot of negative things had been happening in boxing with King and Arum. There was a void for someone new and fresh to step in.

"Lou was a character. He wasn't a slick hustler. He was a pure boxing guy running a family business. We had the right setup and the right image with the family stuff. The fighters trusted Lou.

"We'd had a kind of steady growth at Ice World building up the crowds in the '70s. But how the hell could we know we'd sign the (1984) Olympic team? How could we have known how big we'd get? Lou didn't have any idea it would grow like that."

Today Dino Duva has been working with the Chinese government to possibly develop their Olympic fighters professionally if they do well this summer in London, but otherwise spends less time around boxing. His father, now using a cane and moving slower, no longer works anyone's corner.

He remains a celebrity, however, a man who lived a dream once, building a family business into one of the most powerful promotional companies in boxing history. Yet when he looks back, Lou Duva doesn't think about the money or the championships or the notori-



Duva this year lost a close friend and colleague in **Angelo Dundee**. Image: **Jeff Julian**

ety. What he thinks about is what a boxing man always thinks about.

"When I see him, he still says to me, 'Lou, I got a kid …" DiBella said with a laugh. "He still wants to talk boxing. He's part of a dying breed that made this sport great. Like Angelo (Dundee) and Bert (Sugar). They were all bigger-than-life characters."

Certainly Lou Duva was that, but he doesn't see himself that way. When he thinks about all those years in boxing, he thinks about something entirely different. "When I took a kid off the streets and trained him and helped turn him into a guy who could make money and become somebody, that was the ballgame," Duva said. "It was good. It gave me something to look forward to. My family created something.

"I didn't do it alone. I needed the fighters and they were there for me. I got lucky. I liked what I was doing. I just wish I could go up into the ring one more time and tell off a referee or talk to a kid in the corner when it's slipping away from him.

"That was my life. Boxing was. When it's time to go, I'll probably be fighting to get out of the casket. I'll be yelling at a priest instead of a referee." ■

Duva obviously feels at home at the **International Boxing Hall of Fame**, of which he's a member. Image: **THE RING**

Johnny Tapia's tough life seemed to show on his face. Images: **Chris Cozzone**

MI VIDA LOCA

JOHNNY TAPIA WILL BE REMEMBERED AS MUCH FOR HIS CRAZY LIFE AS HIS BOXING CAREER

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Stories, smiles, regrets, sadness, resignation and inevitability have flowed like tears in the weeks since Johnny Tapia died. It's hard to know whether any of them really define him. Tapia was a man of moments, a hyper-active force of unpredictable fury forever moving and reacting to *la vida loca* he always understood, yet could never control.

It's a reason, perhaps, that so many loved him. There was a moment in Tapia's life that they knew, they had lived themselves or perhaps had witnessed or survived.

For a sportswriter, it was a howl. It was Nov. 30, 1996 at Albuquerque's Tingley Coliseum. Tapia, then the World Boxing Organization's junior bantamweight titleholder, was fighting a Nicaraguan named Adonis Cruz, who was managed by the late Alexis Arguello.

During a wild exchange midway through the fight, Tapia, who would win a unanimous decision, cocked his head to one side and — with a mouthfull of blood — began howling in delight at the sustained violence. He sounded like a kid on a merry-go-round for the first time. The manager looked at the sportswriter, shook his head and smiled in astonishment at what he had just witnessed. Arguello, a Hall of Fame featherweight and lightweight, loved what happened within the ropes as much as any great fighter. But he had never been able to express it the way Tapia had. Who could?

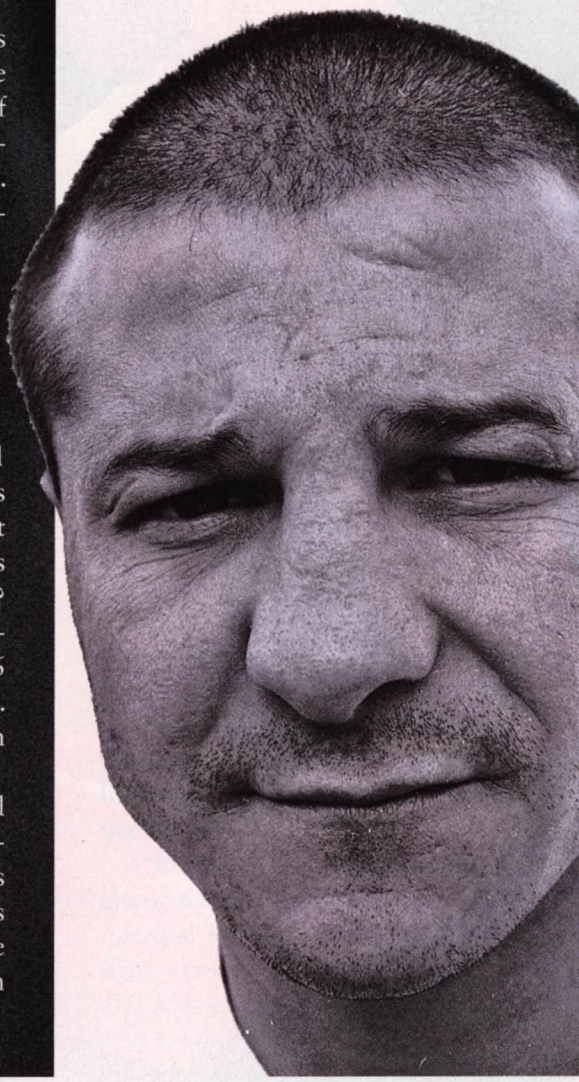
"There's an old Hispanic saying," Tapia wrote in his 2006 autobiography, *Mi Vida Loca*. "Live with wolves and you learn to howl."

The echoes from that howl were there on May 27 when police found Tapia, 45, dead at his home in Albuquerque. It was genuine. Tapia was genuine. He could never hide anything. From the many tattoos to the heart that beat beneath them, it was all there, fearlessly on display.

John Lee Tapia was boxing's *Illustrated Man*.

Late writer Ray Bradbury's short-story collection of the same name was science fiction. Much of Tapia's life sounded as if it could have been. But it wasn't. Exaggerated, sometimes. Yet, Tapia's personality and life-experience were nothing if not extraordinary.

From birth to grave, it's all well-documented. He was declared dead four times, maybe five, depending on the story or the source. Whatever the number, he lived longer than anybody could have guessed. When he was just 8 years old, he was in-



Johnny Tapia was a fresh-faced contender when this photo was taken in 1994. Image: **Al Bello-Getty Images**

▶ **Tapia's** two close losses to **Paulie Ayala** (right) were big disappointments in his career. Image: **John Gurzinski-AFP-Getty Images**

troduced to the kind of life that would confront him for the next 37 years. He watched his mom die after she was raped and stabbed 26 times with a screwdriver while chained in the back of a truck. He told relatives what he has just witnessed. But they told him he'd just had a bad dream.

From then on, the demons never left him alone, except for those moments when he found temporary refuge inside the ropes. Drug problems always haunted him. In 1990, he was 22-0-1, an emerging star, when he tested positive for cocaine for the first time. He promised then that it would never happen again. But it did, again and again. On the night after he married Teresa, the woman who would stand by him through his many controversies and self-destructive behavior, she found him with a needle in his arm. The next morning, emergency-room medics brought him back to life by jump-starting his heart. According to news reports of his death, Vicodin was found near his body.

Drug dependence might have been a symptom. It was a misguided, ultimately fatal way to fight challenges he couldn't see and couldn't knock out with a punch. But the drugs were still there when the boxing was gone. It ended on June 4, 2011 with a unanimous decision over Mauricio Pastrana. Boxing, more than anything, was a life source as elemental as breathing for Tapia.

"People don't understand this about fighters," he told the Albuquerque Journal in 2008. "Once a fight is over, it's the biggest crash of all crashes."

He would always say that boxing was the only thing he knew. It

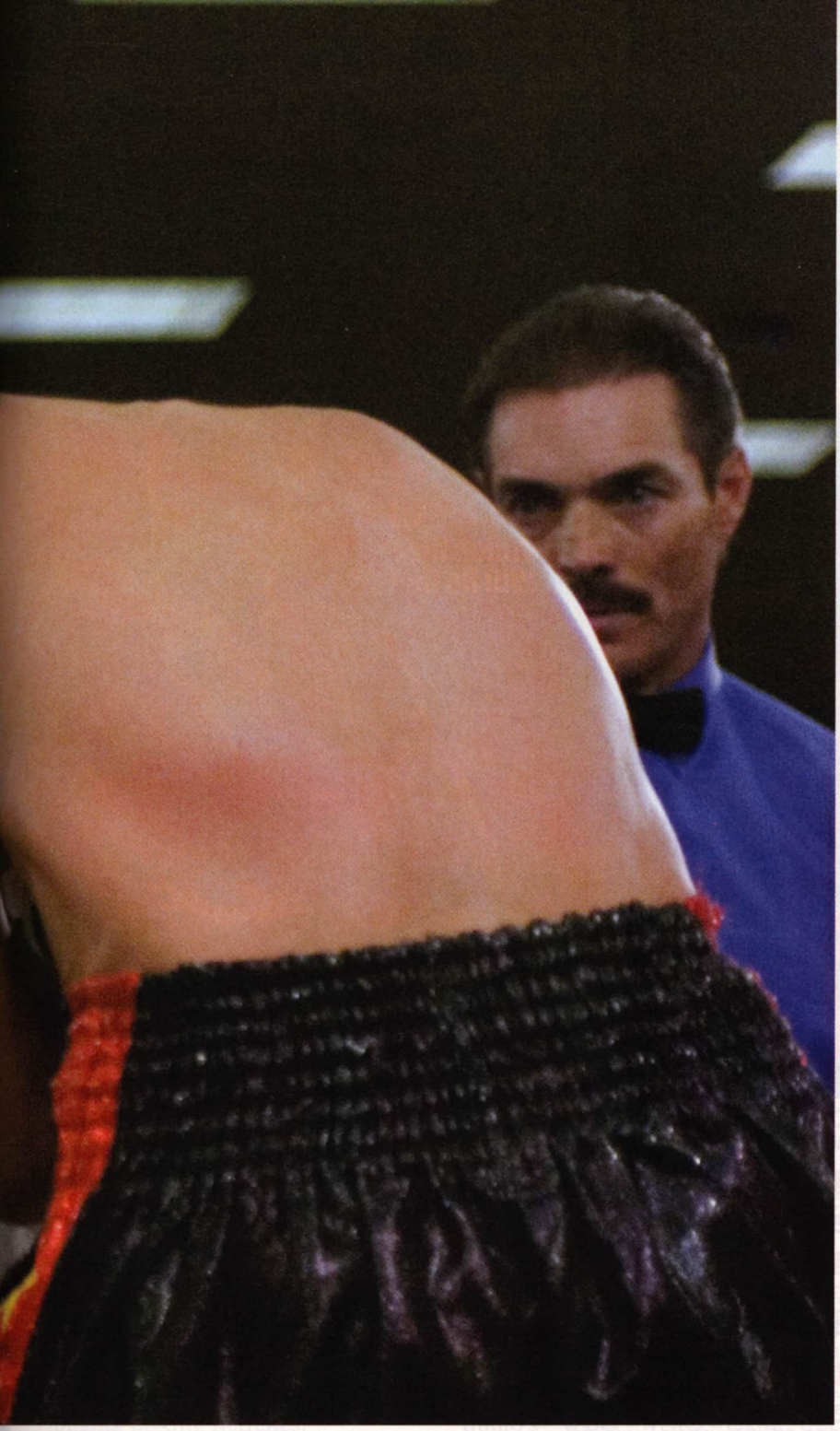
Johnny Tapia won his last four fights, including this one against **Evaristo Primero** in 2007. Image: **Chriss Cozzone**

was an identity forged onto him and illustrated by the *Mi Vida Loca* tattoo that ran across his upper-body like graffiti. It was also there, in his heart, with a touch of larceny that allowed him to steal an opponent's will to go on.

"It's just instinct," Tapia said in 1994, early in a 23-year career (59-5-2, 30 knockouts) that included world titles at junior bantamweight, bantamweight and featherweight. "I do things in the ring without thinking. People ask me how I did that, and I don't even know. I just did it."

Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler remembers a good amateur who had talent, but not the kind that have promoters offering six-and-seven-figure signing bonuses.

"He started out as an unheralded prospect, even though he had a good amateur career," said Trampler, who spoke at Tapia's memorial service in front of a crowd of about 6,800 at the Pit, the University of



New Mexico's basketball arena. "He moved from four-rounders, to six, to eight rather quickly. Then, 10 and 12 rounds. He was the kind of guy you don't find around too much anymore in the sense that he knew how to fight."

Knew how, if not why, from the very beginning.

"He didn't have to be babied for years and developed," Trampler said.

But he did have to be bailed out and brought back from the brink of death again and again. His lifestyle might be remembered more than a boxing career which reached its peak not long after a 3½-year suspension for cocaine on July 18, 1997, with a consummate performance in a unanimous decision over Albuquerque rival Danny Romero at Las Vegas' Thomas & Mack Center.

"As you know, *Mi Vida Loca* means my crazy life," Trampler said. "He'll be remembered longer for that. There will be generations of people who will never see him fight, but they will know him for his reputation."

They'll know him for a father who for years he thought had been murdered before he was born in 1967 on — appropriately enough — Feb. 13. In 2010, he found out his dad was still alive and back on the streets after a release from federal prison.

They'll know him for a rap sheet that was a lot longer than his boxing record. It was 125 pages long.

They'll know him for fighting and winning the World Boxing Association's version of the bantamweight title with a decision over Nana Konadu of Ghana, and then fighting a reported five guys, all on the same night of Dec. 5, 1998. After beating Konadu, he gave a fistful of money to a homeless man on the boardwalk at Atlantic City, N.J. The man was quickly robbed by five men, but the thieves didn't escape with the money.

"Johnny saw what was happening and didn't like the odds, so he evened them up," Trampler said.

It's a life for more books, if not the screen. Trampler and Teresa started to write a screenplay.

"Teresa and I did collaborate on a screenplay," Trampler said. "We did the first two acts over about a two-year period. But we didn't know how this was going to end.

"We might re-visit it. I don't know. But, at the time, we looked at each other and we kind of knew how it was going to end."

Rest in peace, John Lee Tapia. The howl has been silenced. But the echoes will always be there. ■

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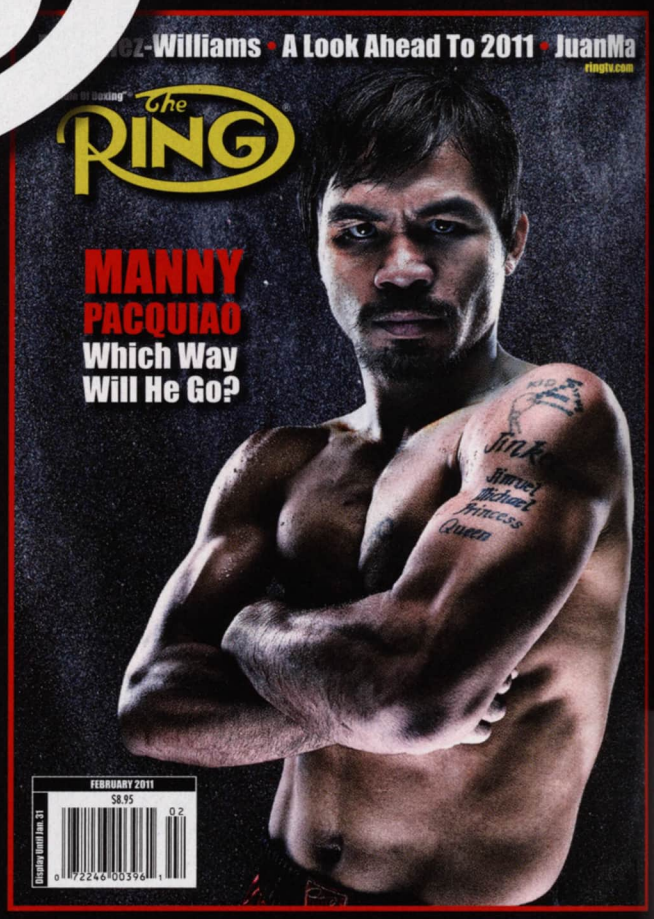

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The vast majority of those who watched the **Manny Pacquiao-Timothy Bradley** fight on June 9 in Las Vegas thought Pacquiao won. Two of the three judges thought otherwise. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

THE GREAT LAS VEGAS BELT HEIST

TWO JUDGES, NOT TIMOTHY BRADLEY, STOLE MANNY PACQUIAO'S TITLE

By **Ron Borges**

Incompetence will only take you so far in life. In Nevada it will take you all the way to a job judging boxing matches.

If one loves the sport of boxing, incompetent is the best thing you can say about the three judges who inflicted an armed robbery on Manny Pacquiao on June 9 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. The armaments used were not of the usual kind. His belt was not heisted at the point of a gun or with the poke of a knife. It was robbery by pencil point.

There was nearly universal agreement at ringside, in the crowd and in the blogosphere that Pacquiao's WBO welterweight title had not been taken from him by challenger Timothy Bradley but rather lifted by a woman named C.J. Ross and a man named Duane Ford, who awarded Bradley unfathomable 115-113 victory margins. To be fair, even Jerry Roth, the lone judge who got the right winner had the score wrong, handing Pacquiao a 115-113 decision on a night where nearly everyone else had him winning by anywhere from six to 10 point margins.

HBO's unofficial judge, Harold Lederman, had Pacquiao winning 119-109, meaning he gave Bradley only one round. He was not alone in that opinion. Yet Ross and Ford found a way to justify giving him six more rounds than Lederman, a decision so far from reality one wondered if they didn't belong either at the Helen Keller Center or in a house for the criminally insane. A day later the 74-year-old Ford tried to justify his score to Yahoo! Sports boxing writer Kevin Iole, claiming essentially that only those in a judge's chair could see with clarity or know what they were looking at. Blind arrogance is the birthplace of grave injustice.

Though the above might sound harsh, it is not. It is in fact kind because the only other explanation for their decision would be corrup-

tion. No such thing has been proven but with boxing's checkered history many wondered.

Two weeks before the fight Bradley was already announcing a Nov. 10 rematch at the MGM, later saying it was merely to hype the first fight. One understands the importance of planning but the place and time had already been worked out for a rematch before the first bout had been contested?

Rumors supported somewhat by Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, also circulated that if Pacquiao lost badly or won easily he might seriously consider retirement. Nearly 34 years old and clearly slipping, Pacquiao was trying to recalibrate his life after admitting during the weeks before the Bradley fight to a secret life of gambling, partying and fornication that had led his wife to threaten divorce in the days before he won a highly controversial majority decision over Juan Manuel Marquez last November.

Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum, admitted to having advanced Pacquiao as much as $4 million over the past several years to cover gambling debts, and the fighter told friends despite his international popularity he felt "empty inside" at the way his life was going.

Seemingly absorbed by a political career back in the Philippines, a budding career as a singer and his recent religious reformation that now includes nightly Bible study, Pacquiao had grown ever more distracted the past few years. That and the corrosive effects of time had led to three increasingly lackluster performances. So with a mega-fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr. no closer to fruition than it was three years ago, Pacquiao had few worlds left to conquer in boxing, no other logical opponent to pursue and the harsh reality of diminished skills and reflexes staring him in the face.

The only thing that might keep Pacquiao's interest alive was just the kind of heist that occurred on June 9, a decision so obviously wrong it cried out for revenge.

Since Arum had both ends of the equation, he won no matter which fighter did. That apparently already-negotiated rematch initially appeared assured once Bradley realized few fans believed he'd won and Pacquiao stood in shocked amazement as the WBO title belt was slipped around the challenger's waist.

In an odd fashion it was a perfect night for everyone but the sport's long-suffering customers, who were ripped off by two judges who, not surprisingly, disappeared the moment the decision was announced. Not so the boisterous crowd of over 14,000, which booed so lustily it drowned out Bradley's post-fight comments in the ring.

Later Bradley would arrive at the post-fight press conference in a wheelchair, having torn ligaments in his left foot in the second round that will require him to remain in a cast for eight weeks and badly spraining his right ankle in the fifth after stepping on the foot of referee Robert Byrd. One injury he didn't sustain was a fractured hand because neither landed often enough to necessitate even being encased in ice.

"Pacquiao won the early rounds," Bradley said. "Later rounds I controlled with my jab. I gotta go back home and review the tapes, and I'll see if I won the fight.

"You can hear the boos in the crowd. A lot of people don't think I won the fight. Everybody feels I lost the fight, but my corner told me if I won the last rounds, I won the fight. There are three judges out there and two of them said I won. What do you want me to do? We definitely got to do it again."

Other than for the obvious financial reasons, why? Pacquiao will likely go forward with the rematch but what he should say is, "No thanks. You fight who you want. I'm not going to feed into the absurdity boxing has become."

Timothy Bradley managed to get some shots through Manny Pacquiao's defense. Image: Naoki Fukuda

The day after the decision was announced controversy resonated, with Arum saying he would refuse to make the rematch – despite the clause in Pacquiao's contract mandating one — until the decision was investigated by Nevada officials. He also threatened to take it to Texas or Florida which, like Nevada, have no state income tax.

Arum said he wanted to be assured there had been no undue influence on the judges by virtue of instructions they received before the fight. He

also said he would accept the decision if an investigation established no chicanery. But the likelihood anyone will review the result is minimal.

The same day Arum was calling for an investigation and threatening to take a multi-million dollar fight out of Nevada, state athletic commission chairman Skip Avansino told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, "We had three seasoned professionals working, and I don't question their determinations. Unless something is brought to your attention that there was improper behavior, we're not going to take any action. I'm not going to second-guess our judges."

Why not? Far better run sports like the National Football League and Major League Baseball evaluate their officials all season and often publicly second-guess them. Only in boxing are judges and referees seldom admonished or openly re-evaluated.

While trying to defend his score a day after the fight, Ford told the *Review-Journal*, "I thought Bradley gave Pacquiao a boxing lesson." Soon after, he reportedly said, "I thought a lot of the rounds were close."

Which was it? A boxing lesson or a close fight?

Keith Kizer, the commission's executive director, agreed with Avansino (naturally), saying he did not expect a review of the judges' cards nor did he anticipate any discipline. Kizer claimed he felt Pacquiao won but hinted this was a case of a close fight with differing opinions on the outcome. But less than four days later Kizer backtracked, saying he would review the fight tape individually with each judge.

A day later WBO president Francesco "Paco" Valcarcel announced the WBO Championship Committee would empanel a group of five recognized international judges to score the fight "to evaluate the video of the match and agree to what emerges."

Valcarcel went on to say, "In no way does this say we are doubting the capacity of those judges."

Both acts came as a reaction to Arum asking for an investigation by Nevada State Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. The request was soon endorsed by U.S. Senator (and former boxer, boxing judge and Senate majority leader) Harry Reid of Nevada. Reid said an investigation would "clear the air," and added that the firestorm of protest might renew efforts by Arizona Sen. John McCain to create a Federal Commission to oversee boxing.

While much of that was posturing with much pomp but little circumstance, the truth of the situation is the fight was anything but close. Retired former Nevada judge Chuck Giampa, who scored over 2,000 professional fights and 178 world title fights during his 25 years at ringside, added fuel to the fire when he publicly questioned the decision of his former colleagues.

Giampa told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* he had watched the fight at his home with the sound off and scored the bout 118-110, meaning he gave Bradley only two rounds. In Giampa's opinion, the three judges were conned by Bradley into thinking he was wining rounds simply because he was doing more and Pacquiao less in the second half of the fight.

"A fighter can have his best round, but was it enough to win the round?" Giampa asked. "I think that's what happened in the later rounds when Bradley had better rounds, but were they enough to win the round? I don't think they were, in my opinion."

Unlike Kizer, Giampa recalled that when the late Chuck Minker was commission executive director he would often brutally scrutinize the work of his judges, round by round. If the three judges failed to agree on the scoring of more than three rounds, Minker felt something was wrong. In Pacquiao-Bradley the three judges agreed on only six of the 12 rounds, well below Minker's previous standard.

"Obviously, they weren't watching the same fight," Giampa said of Roth, Ford and Ross. He was upset enough that he too called the commission two days after the fight calling for an independent review of the three cards.

But is anything likely to change? Not really. A rematch is already contractually agreed to. So even if the WBO overturned the result and ordered a rematch, it wouldn't change anything. Despite Arum's idle threat not to stage a rematch if he doesn't get answers, Pacquiao (54-4-2, 38 knockouts) knows he would be guaranteed 20 million reasons to go through with one and likely will insist Arum make it happen. Bradley will have 10 million reasons, plus increasing public pressure and a binding contract. But none of that changes what happened on June 9.

"When I came into the ring [after the fight], I said to Tim, 'You did very well,' and he said "I tried hard but I couldn't beat the guy,'" Arum claimed after the fight. "Something like this is so outlandish, it's a death knell for the sport. This is f------ nuts. I have both guys, and I'll make a lot of money in the rematch, but it's ridiculous.

"You have these old f---- who don't know what the hell they're looking at. It's incompetence. Nobody who knows anything about boxing could have Bradley ahead in the fight.

"You all know who won. I hope boxing recovers because this isn't arguing about a close decision. This is an absurdity. Everybody involved in boxing should be ashamed. Let's be honest about the situation."

Why start now? Boxing has been corrupt and littered with incompetence for years. When the latter becomes institutionally accepted, which it now seems to be, is that not a form of deceit?

Manny Pacquiao wasn't aggressive in parts of most rounds but also fought with ferocity at many junctures. Image: **Joe Klamar-AFP-Getty Images**

This was a fight where one guy lost nearly every round in the first half of the match and chose to retreat rather than face further damage in the second half yet still had his hand raised.

"It was a good fight," Bradley (29-0, 12 KOs) said as he sat bare-

foot in his wheelchair, his feet swollen from his injuries. "I thought I won the fight. I didn't think he was as good as everybody says he is. I didn't feel a lot of his power.

"I got my second wind in the sixth round. I worked the angles, sticking and moving. I won the later rounds with my jab."

What jab? According to CompuBox statistics, Bradley landed only 51 jabs all night, which is an average of 4¼ per round and 12 fewer than Pacquiao. Worse, CompuBox had Pacquiao outlanding Bradley in 10 of the 12 rounds with Bradley out landing Pacquiao only in the ninth, a round Pacquiao took off.

Although their calculations had Bradley throwing 88 more punches, it had Pacquiao connecting with 94 more, a connection differential of 34 percent to 19 percent. When did fighters start getting more credit for missing than for landing?

This is the second straight Pacquiao decision that was hotly disputed. The first came in Las Vegas last November when he was awarded a majority decision over Marquez on a night when not even Pacquiao was sure he won. If one believes in karma, perhaps this

Timothy Bradley was the official winner even if few agreed with the decision. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

was payback for what happened to Marquez then and in two previous bouts with Pacquiao?

In their three fights, Marquez has only a draw and two disputed decision defeats to show for his efforts. He fervently believes he won all three and many neutral observers feel he won at least two. Arum had been talking about a possible fourth fight between the two before the Bradley fight and hinted he might go in that direction in November rather than pursue Bradley, even though as Bradley's promoter he owes him another fight, too.

Karma, of course, is not the issue, or at least shouldn't be. The issue is do judges in Las Vegas score what they see anymore or simply what they've been led to believe they should see? Are judges as old as Ford and Roth, who are 74 and 71, respectively, still competent to judge high-profile fights? And who is C.J. Ross and how, with only 20 title fights to her credit, does she get assigned one of the biggest fights of the year?

Neither the judges nor Kizer showed up after the fight to answer any of those questions. Kizer was asked if he wanted to take a short cut through a small storage room to the post-fight press conference by a security officer and was heard to say, "No thanks."

Why would he want to face a barrage of questions he knew was awaiting him? Maybe because he's a public official and it's part of his job? Thinking about it logically, though, what else would you expect in a state where prostitution is legal and gambling is the leading industry?

A placid Pacquiao, surrounded by his family and wrapped in the arms of his renewed and publicly expressed faith in God's will for him, urged observers "do not be dismayed or be discouraged at the result. I respect the decision but 100 percent I believe I won the fight. In your heart you know who won but the best attitude is respect and professionalism."

Roach was not as agreeable. Asked if he felt close rounds had gone to Bradley as payback for the disputed win over Marquez, he snapped, "I didn't see that many close rounds. I'm not sure if our last fight had anything to do with it. I had it 10-2. Did they hold that fight against us?

"Bradley took some really good shots. He has a good chin. But he chose to not fight about midway through the fight. I told Manny before the fight Bradley would come, come, come but Manny said not after he felt his power. Manny was right."

Pacquiao agreed, saying, "I don't know what happened. Most of his punches hit my arms. I tell you the truth. I don't even remember if he hurt me with one punch. I don't remember him hitting me one time in the face.

"I hurt him every time I landed my left hand. Some rounds I took off and relaxed and didn't throw so many punches. I give him credit for winning three rounds. Aside from three rounds almost every round I hurt him. I know he felt that. In the second half of the fight it was back off, back off. Running, running, running."

Only a few years ago Pacquiao might well have taken the decision out of the hands of the judges but the ravages of time seem to have slowed his reflexes and made him less accurate and, at times, less aggressive. The fact that he failed to stop an opponent who claimed to be suffering from injuries to both feet for more than half the fight frankly does not bode well for his long term future and might give some reason to favor Bradley in a rematch.

Yet, as Bradley conceded, "Manny hurt me a few times. He's a beast."

One June 10 he was still welterweight champion, too. He just didn't have a belt to prove it any longer. ■

Manny Pacquiao believed after he fought **Timothy Bradley** that the wrong man won the decision but he didn't make a fuss. Image: **Robert Beck-Sports Illusrated-Getty Images**

INCORRECT BUT CLEAN

By: **Chuck Giampa**

"What an outrage!"
"Pacquiao was robbed!"
"Worst Decision I've ever seen!"

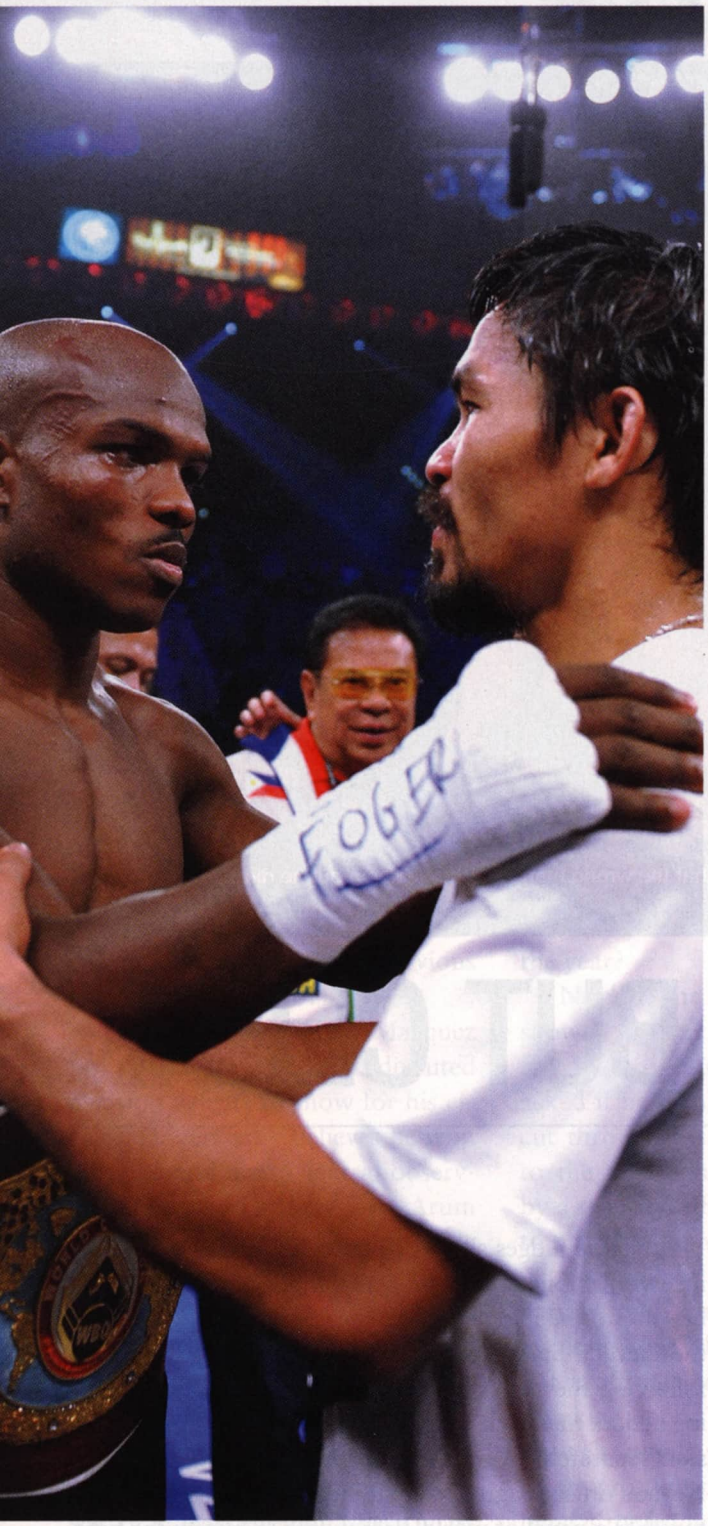
These are just a few of the comments I received following the split decision that gave Timothy Bradley a victory over Manny Pacquiao on June 9 in Las Vegas. I have never received so many angry calls about a boxing decision in my entire officiating career. The callers were convinced the judges were either corrupt or unqualified.

First, the judges — Duane Ford, Jerry Roth and C.J. Ross — are NOT corrupt. I have worked with all three of them. I don't believe their scores were influenced by any potential matchup, a possible rematch or any other outside factor as it applies to anyone with a vested interest in the outcome. However, that doesn't mean that their scores were correct.

So how do I explain the final tallies: Ford and Ross 115-113 for Bradley; Roth 115-113 for Pacquiao?

I believe judges should be accountable for their scoring, with emphasis on uniformity in philosophies and adherence to the basic criteria of scoring. Thus, I contacted the Nevada State Athletic Commission on the Monday following the fight and made a request for the following action: that each of the judges meet with the commission separately to review every round of the fight. The Nevada officials agreed to that. In addition, the WBO put together a panel of world-class judges to review the fight even though the decision cannot be overturned, nor can the championship belt be returned to Pacquiao. Also, Top Rank, the promoter of both fighters, filed a complaint with the Nevada Attorney General's office for an inquiry.

Scoring in a 12-round fight is considered consistent when all three of the judges agree on a minimum of nine rounds. The judges agreed on six rounds in the Pacquiao-Bradley fight. So, although the scores were close, the judges were not in agreement on half of the fight.



The fighters showed one another respect afterward in spite of the controversy. Image: **Joe Klamar-AFP-Getty Images**

Also, it was noted that the combined number of championship fights of the judges exceeded 350 title fights (although C.J. Ross accounted for only about 20 title fights). Ford and Roth had the most experience in title fights but still disagreed on which boxer won the fight.

As of press time, I had not heard a definitive explanation by any of the judges as to how and why they scored every round. They reportedly believed that Pacquiao won the first part of the fight and that Bradley won the second portion of the fight. But accountability calls for a definitive explanation of every minute of every round.

An explanation by each of the judges reviewing each round of the fight and the criteria they used in determining the winner is necessary to restore the confidence of the fans in the sport of boxing. The fans don't believe the sport has integrity because of the controversial decisions and poor refereeing during the past year and a half.

I believe it is time for the sport to re-evaluate itself. Actions such as the WBO reviewing the fight are commendable. The Association of Boxing Promoters is also addressing this problem. I also believe that referees and judges should be evaluated and ranked. For example, C-rated officials wouldn't do title fights; B-rated officials would officiate in title fights but not "mega fights" and A-rated officials would officiate in the biggest events.

It is time for all boxing officials to be accountable for their actions. Even if we disagree with their actions, the officials should be able to articulate the criteria they used in officiating a fight and explain their philosophy.

Most important, officials are human and are subject to missing a call or scoring a round incorrectly. If, after reviewing their actions they realize that they may have made a mistake in scoring, ADMIT IT, OWN IT. We have all made mistakes.

I learned an important lesson from former referee Mills Lane. I judged a fight in England and was on the wrong end of a split decision. When I reviewed the fight and after discussing this with Lane, I admitted that I scored two rounds incorrectly. Had I not made that mistake, the official loser would've been a split-decision winner.

My consequence? I was going to be appointed to be one of the judges in the Tyson-Bruno fight several weeks later in Las Vegas. However, in light of my poor performance in England, the Nevada Commission informed me that my appointment would bring undue attention to me by the British press since Bruno was from the UK. The commission was correct. I did the right thing by acknowledging my mistake but it cost me a Tyson fight.

This was a very important lesson that I encourage all officials to heed. ■

Chuck Giampa can be reached at ***chuckgiampa@aol.com.***

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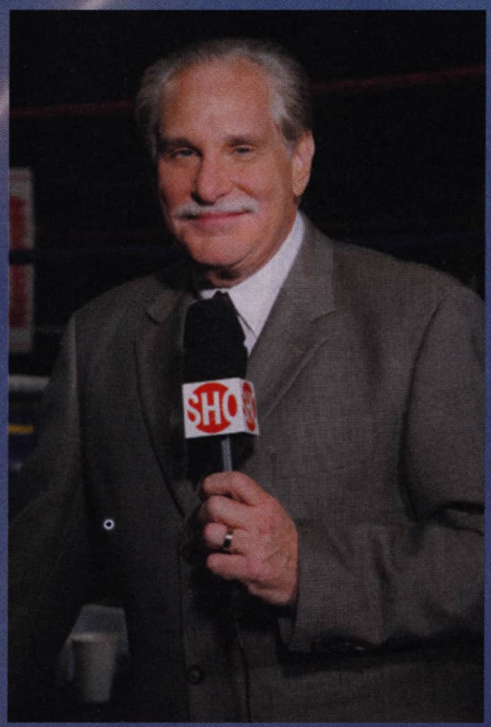

Congratulations **Al Bernstein**
on your well-deserved induction into the
International Boxing Hall of Fame
and on receiving the
BWAA Marvin Kohn "Good Guy" Award.

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Carl Froch (right) finishes off his prey, **Lucian Bute**. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

CARL FROCH TKO 5 LUCIAN BUTE

DATE: MAY 26, 2012
SITE: CAPITAL FM ARENA, NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND
DIVISION: SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: FROCH 167¼; BUTE 167¾
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): FROCH NO. 2; BUTE NO. 1
NETWORK: EPIX

Carl Froch defied the odds with a five-round demolition job on previously unbeaten Lucian Bute to win the IBF super middleweight belt. A wildly enthusiastic capacity crowd of 9,000 witnessed their Nottingham homeboy serve up a display of aggressive power-punching that overwhelmed the high-flying Romanian-born Canadian.

Bute, 32, was making the 10th defense of his IBF belt, and most pundits figured his speedy southpaw skills and punching power would be too much for Froch. But Froch, 34, came looking for redemption following his loss to RING super middleweight champ Andre Ward — and delivered the signature performance of his 10-year career.

Round one was close with a cagey Bute (30-1, 24 KOs) showing bursts of speed and Froch (29-2, 21 KOs) showing a fired-up willingness to engage, momentarily shaking his foe with a left hook.

Bute was forced to hold when caught with a hard right one minute into round two. By then it seemed Froch, rated No. 1 by THE RING at 168, could match his speed and defensive skill, but was outmatching him when it came to power and chin. When the visitor tried to clinch he was made to pay, sometimes with rabbit punches.

Early in the third Bute landed his straight-left honey punch and it had no effect. Instead, the Englishman stepped in and fired a pair of wounding hooks and from then-on it was all Froch, as he landed 36 power punches on THE RING's No. 3 168-pounder. Bute hung on in desperation, but every time they were parted he was shaken again by debilitating blows.

A cautious Bute concentrated on moving his head and feet in the fourth, which might have worked had Froch tried boxing his way in, but instead he was leaping and charging. When the bell rang, Bute was pinned to the ropes and it looked like he had no idea where he was.

A minute's break wasn't enough and the final onslaught saw Bute's head being rocked back, rag-doll style. Referee Earl Brown (U.S.) stepped in too late, as Bute slid down the ropes. Then, to everyone's astonishment, he started counting. Froch's ecstatic promoter, Eddie Hearn, embraced his charge, which could have prompted disqualification but by then Bute's trainer had also entered the ring, waving the white towel. Brown finally ended it at the 1:05 mark.

Froch is contractually obliged to offer a return bout after a warm-up defense, which he hopes will be against Mikkel Kessler, but he hasn't forgotten Ward.

"With a performance like that, I'd beat anybody in the world, including Ward," Froch said. "If I catch Ward with some of the punches like I landed on Bute, it's game over."

–Gavin Evans

Andy Lee (left) was overwhelmed by **Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.** Image: **Chris Farina-Top Rank**

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR. TKO 7 ANDY LEE

DATE: JUNE 16, 2012
SITE: SUN BOWL STADIUM, EL PASO, TEX.
DIVISION: MIDDLEWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: CHAVEZ JR. 159; LEE 159 1/4
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): CHAVEZ JR. NO. 3; LEE UNRATED
NETWORK: HBO

What began as a joke to many, a means of cashing-in on a famous name by a kid who had a fan base before he had a puncher's chance, or even a puncher's clue, has become something else entirely. Mexican Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. (46-0-1, 32 KOs) has moved from Mexican-tabloid novelty to middleweight beast, beating down each opponent placed in his way. On the football field of University of Texas-El Paso's Sun Bowl Stadium, "Irish" Andy Lee (28-2, 20 KOs) joined the rolls of Chavez victims.

Chavez stopped Lee in the seventh round of their WBC middleweight title fight, leveraging counter right crosses and uppercuts with force enough to snap Lee's head in all directions and bring Texas referee Laurence Cole rushing to his rescue at 2:21. It was a stoppage popular with the partisan-Chavez crowd of 13,467 and undisputed by Lee's corner.

"I began by studying him," Chavez said after the fight. "I saw he had nothing, and I dove in."

It was another case of "Junior's" reputation as a coddled child of privilege preceding, and belying, his size and strength. Lee, like most every Chavez opponent before him, implied during pre-fight talk that Chavez was not prepared for a man of Lee's class or size. And Lee, like every Chavez opponent before him, was entirely surprised by the man he met in the ring.

"I couldn't hold him off," Lee said after the fight. "He was too big and too strong."

Plagued by leg cramps in the early rounds of the fight, Chavez needed six or so minutes to warm up, time he spent measuring Lee's power by collecting flush counter shots from the Irish southpaw. But by round 5, Chavez had tasted enough, lowered his hands, showed Lee his mouthpiece, and begun to taunt him. In the next five minutes, Chavez repeatedly waited on a left cross from Lee and launched a right-cross counter over it. Lee had no answer whatever, and Cole's stoppage was merciful.

With a third successful defense of his WBC middleweight title, and with each defense more impressive than its predecessor, Chavez positioned himself for a pay-per-view superfight with THE RING's middleweight champion, Sergio Martinez, in September.

Chavez's legendary father, Julio Cesar Chavez Sr., issued a warning of sorts to Martinez after his son's knockout of Lee.

"He has talked so much shit!" Chavez Sr. said. "I hope he doesn't run around the ring like a chicken."

–Bart Barry

Leo Santa Cruz (left) was far too busy for **Vusi Malinga**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

GABRIEL ROSADO TKO 9 SECHEW POWELL

Gabriel Rosado scored his second consecutive knockout on NBC Sports Network's *Fight Night* series, stopping Sechew Powell in nine rounds on June 1 in Bethlehem, Pa.

Powell's southpaw style gave the hard-charging Rosado fits at times, but the 32-year-old Brooklynite finally succumbed to the pressure in the ninth frame. The 26-year-old Philadelphian teed off on his foe's midsection in round nine. He landed a big left that doubled Powell (26-5, 15 KOs) over, causing his gloves to touch for a knockdown. After the mandatory eight count, Rosado (20-5, 16 KOs) trapped him on the ropes and unloaded with both hands, forcing referee Steve Smoger to wave it off at 2:43.

It was Powell's third consecutive loss (the other two losses came to Cory Spinks and Cornelius Bundrage), whose career as a meaningful fighter is probably over.

The streaking Rosado — winner of six straight — set himself up nicely for a bigger fight at 154.

ACELINO FREITAS KO 9 MICHAEL OLIVEIRA

Brazilian hero Acelino Freitas ended a five-year retirement in emphatic fashion, stopping fellow Brazilian and previously-undefeated prospect Michael Oliveira in nine rounds on June 2 in Punta del Este, Uruguay.

Freitas' best days were at 130 pounds, but this fight was contested at 154, Freitas now 36 years old. Oliveira, 22, was dropped three times in the contest.

Freitas (39-2, 33 KOs) dropped him in the third frame after landing a combination that forced the ropes to keep Oliveira vertical. "Popo" dropped the man 14 years his junior in the ninth with a left. Oliveira (17-1, 12 KOs) beat referee Hector Afu's count, but was unsteady. Freitas sensed the moment and jumped on him, knocking him cold with a left hand following a barrage. Afu didn't bother counting and waved the fight off at 2:19.

With Freitas' name recognition, it's reasonable to expect to see him in a meaningful fight in the not-so-distant future.

LEO SANTA CRUZ UD 12 VUSI MALINGA

Leo Santa Cruz defeated Vusi Malinga over 12 one-sided rounds to win the vacant IBF bantamweight belt on June 2 in Carson, Calif. — part of a Showtime quadruple-header.

Scores were 120-108, 119-109 and 120-108.

The 23-year-old resident of Lincoln Heights, Calif., threw and threw — 1,350 punches in all — on his way to his first title. Malinga (20-4-1, 12 KOs) tried to keep up with younger fighter, who was making his network TV debut, but was no match.

Austin Trout (left) had little trouble outpointing **Delvin Rodriguez**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

Santa Cruz threw debilitating body shots and outworked the 32-year-old South African over each round with his amazing output.

Inactivity certainly didn't help Malinga: This was just his second fight since September 2009.

Santa Cruz (20-0-1, 11 KOs), the younger brother of Jose Armando Santa Cruz, put on a fan-friendly fight. Trained by Robert Garcia and managed by Cameron Dunkin, the public is sure to see a lot more of the Mexican native in the future.

PETER QUILLIN UD 10 WINKY WRIGHT

Winky Wright ended a long layoff — his first fight in over three years and just second since 2007 — but didn't take any comeback fights. He went straight to a bout with fast-rising contender Peter "Kid Chocolate" Quillin and got more than his 40-year-old body could handle, as he was dominated over 10 rounds and even suffered a rare knockdown.

Quillin won by scores of 98-91, 97-92 and 98-91.

Following the June 2 bout in Carson, Calif. — televised by Showtime — Wright officially announced his retirement. Wright, of St. Petersburg, Fla., will surely go down as one of the best junior middleweights of all time, but this fight was about the emergence of a new player at middleweight. Now rated No. 10 by THE RING at 160 pounds, Quillin (27-0, 20 KOs) seems ready for the division's elite.

The 28-year-old native of Grand Rapids, Mich., beat Wright to the punch consistently and landed the harder shots all fight. He knocked Wright down with a looping right hand in the fifth and then hurt him again with an uppercut in the ninth, cruising to the unanimous decision victory.

Wright (51-6-1, 25 KOs) ends his career on a three-fight losing streak, the other losses coming to Paul Williams and Bernard Hopkins.

AUSTIN TROUT UD 12 DELVIN RODRIGUEZ

Austin Trout — with his best television exposure yet — easily outpointed Delvin Rodriguez over 12 rounds on June 2 in Carson, Calif.

The fight was a snoozer, but Trout earned a No. 10 rating by THE RING at junior middleweight with the

Kelly Pavlik (left) continued his comeback by stopping **Scott Sigmon**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

victory. The scores were lopsided — 120-108, 118-110 and 117-111.

The 32-year-old resident of Danbury, Ct., who participated in the BWAA's 2011 "Fight of the Year" with Pawel Wolak last summer, hardly resembled the action fighter he is known as. He seemed content to box at the end of Trout's educated southpaw jab and exchanges were few and far between.

Rodriguez (26-6-3, 13 KOs) is now 2-4-1 in his previous seven bouts.

Trout (25-0, 14 KOs), managed by the ubiquitous Al Haymon, surely didn't land new fans with the performance, but his style is sure to give fits to any opponent at 154. The 26-year-old native of Las Cruces, N.M., figures to be back in a high-profile bout next time out.

ANTONIO TARVER D 12 LATEEF KAYODE

Antonio Tarver, semi-retired, is now the expert analyst for Showtime. He'd been critical of Lateef Kayode on *ShoBox* telecasts, where Kayode is a staple. Kayode grew tired of the criticism and called Tarver out: a battle of youth vs. experience.

In the end, there was no clear victor in the featured bout of the June 2 quadruple-header in Carson, Calif., and the judges got it right with the draw verdict — scores were 115-113 each way and 114-114 even.

The 43-year-old Tampa-based fighter struggled over the first half of the bout, as Kayode, 29, piled up rounds. The 1996 Olympic bronze medalist came on in the second half of the match, though. He wobbled the limited Kayode in the seventh with a left. He again hurt his foe in the eighth with another left from his southpaw stance. And in the ninth, the Nigerian found himself stunned by a Tarver blow once more. If Tarver, rated No. 6 at cruiserweight by THE RING, had been more active over the first half of the bout, he probably would have earned the nod. As it was, the bout was boring and lauded by the public as a bout not warranting a rematch.

If Tarver (29-6-1, 20 KOs) decides to hang them up, he can go back to his cushy ringside job on Showtime telecasts. But Kayode (18-0-1, 14 KOs) burned a bridge in a post-fight tirade where he alleged the decision was a draw because Tarver works for the network. In reality, Kayode, THE RING's No. 8 cruiser, only has himself to blame. He was facing a man 14 years his senior and couldn't take advantage of a lackluster performance from Tarver.

KELLY PAVLIK TKO 7 SCOTT SIGMON

Kelly Pavlik continued his comeback with a one-sided beating of club fighter Scott Sigmon in Las Vegas on the eve of the Manny Pacquiao-Tim Bradley fight — the ESPN *Friday Night Fights* main event.

Pavlik, now trained by Robert Garcia and living in Oxnard, Calif., dished out rights and lefts, leaving Sigmon a bloody mess. The 32-year-old native of Youngstown, Ohio, continuously poured it on, landing at will, while the 25-year-old from Lynchburgh, Va., bled profusely. Referee Jay Nady mercifully ended it after the conclusion of round seven.

As this went to press, Pavlik was scheduled to return to HBO on July 7 against Will Rosinsky in a super middleweight bout, the co-feature to Nonito Donaire vs. Jeffrey Mathebula.

RANDALL BAILEY KO 11 MIKE JONES

The fight was a snoozer — that is until the 10th round. After 9 tedious stanzas on June 9 in Las Vegas, the aptly-named "Knockout King" Randall Bailey dropped Mike Jones hard in a fight he was losing handily. In the 11th, he may have authored the KO of the Year, ending the fight with a single left uppercut which sent Jones flying back and out at 2:52, blood smeared over his face.

It was far and away the biggest victory of the 37-year-old's career. With the win, Bailey (43-7, 37 KOs) picked up the vacant IBF welterweight title and a No. 9 ranking in THE RING ratings.

The fight was so boring there was a chorus of boos throughout, as neither fighter was willing to engage. Bailey, of Miami, seemed content to look for one big shot, cocking his right hand back in anticipation. And Jones, 29, obliged him. Bailey may have landed only

Mike Jones seems to be in shock after his KO loss to **Randall Bailey**. Image: **Kevork Djansezian-Getty Images**

two punches of consequence all fight, but that was all he needed to tarnish the previously undefeated Jones' record (now 26-1, 19 KOs) and pick up a strap at 147. Jones was leading comfortably on all three cards at the time of the stoppage.

GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX TKO 5 TEON KENNEDY

The two-time Olympic gold medalist Guillermo Rigondeaux continued his rise in the sport, as he dismantled Teon Kennedy in five rounds on June 9 in Las Vegas to retain his WBA 122-pound strap.

In what was the Cuban's 10th pro bout, Rigondeaux, 31 was as measured and poised as a seasoned pro. He was patient as he found openings. He fired debilitating shots that seemed to hurt the 25-year-old Philadelphian whenever he landed flush. Kennedy, 26, went down five times total (he was on the canvas in every round but the third).

After putting his foe down once in the fifth, THE RING's No. 2 junior featherweight dropped Kennedy (17-2-2, 7 KOs) on the deck again and referee Russell Mora had seen enough, halting the mismatch at 1:11. It was Kennedy's third consecutive bout without a win.

Rigondeaux (10-0, 7 knockouts) appears to be one of the most talented fighters in the sport. A match between the Miami resident and Top Rank stablemate Nonito Donaire is one of the best matches that can be made in the sport.

BRYANT JENNINGS UD 10 STEVE COLLINS

Bryant Jennings easily defeated his overmatched foe Steve Collins — a 10 round shutout — on June 16 in Newark, N.J. All three judges scored it the same: 100-89.

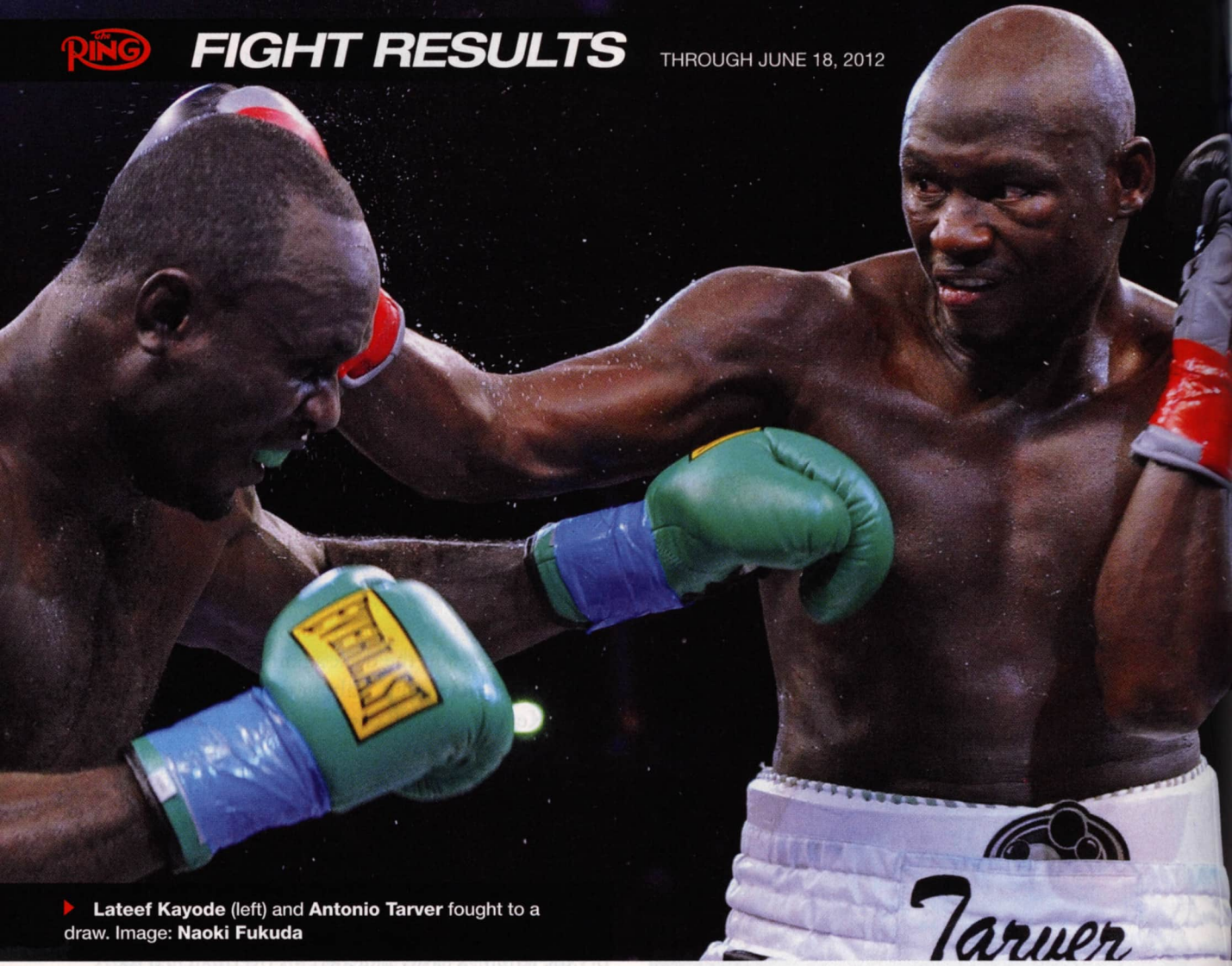
Jennings, 27, knocked Collins (25-2, 18 KOs) down with a right uppercut in the fourth round — a blow which forced the ropes to hold Collins upright. After receiving a mandatory eight count from referee Lindsey Page, Jennings tried to finish him but there wasn't enough time left in the frame.

Jennings (14-0, 6 KOs) sought to land the money punch again, doubling up the jab before unloading right uppercuts, but the tough 28-year-old Texan withstood a lot of punishment and made it to the final bell.

Many observers consider the Philadelphian to be America's best heavyweight prospect, but he still needs seasoning. With three fights under his belt in the first half of 2012 — all televised by NBC Sports Network — he is staying sharp and improving every fight. That Jennings didn't stop Collins certainly doesn't help his stock, though. It was a mismatch and the bout had no business going the distance considering how many times Collins was hurt. ■

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH JUNE 18, 2012



Lateef Kayode (left) and **Antonio Tarver** fought to a draw. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

HEAVYWEIGHTS

FRES OQUENDO KO 9 JOEY ABELL
DEONTAY WILDER KO 1 JESSE OLTMANNS
AUDLEY HARRISON KO 4 ALI ADAMS
ARTUR SZPILKA KO 4 GONZALO OMAR BASILE
ANDRZEJ WAWRZYK W 10 DENIS BAKHTOV
FABIO MOLI KO 8 EMILIO ZARATE
DOMINICK GUINN KO 1 STACY FRAZIER
MARK DE MORI KO 3 TROY WEIDA
RICHARD TOWERS KO 9 GREGORY TONY
BRYANT JENNINGS W 10 STEVE COLLINS
TOMASZ ADAMEK W 12 EDDIE CHAMBERS

CRUISERWEIGHTS

WILLIAM BEZERRA KO 1 REINALDO ALBUQUERQUE DE LIMA
ANTONIO TARVER D 12 LATEEF KAYODE
DANIEL AMMANN W 10 ANTHONY MCCRACKEN
JEREMY OUANNA W 10 FAISAL IBNEL ARRAMI

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

RYAN COYNE W 8 JULIUS FOGLE
SOULAN POWNCEBY TECH. WIN 7 DANIEL MACKINNON
DARIUSZ SEK W 10 VITALIY RUSAL
SERGEY KOVALEV KO 2 DARNELL BOONE
BEIBUT SHUMENOV W 12 ENRIQUE ORNELAS
ELEIDER ALVAREZ W 12 SHAWN HAWK
SEAN MONAGHAN KO 8 ROMARO JOHNSON
JONATHAN PROFICHET KO 7 HAKIM CHIOUI
NADJIB MOHAMMEDI KO 5 DOUDOU NGUMBU

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

EZEQUIEL MADERNA W 12 RUBEN ACOSTA
MOUHAMED ALI NDIAYE KO 9 JOSE GUERRERO
CARL FROCH KO 5 LUCIAN BUTE
HADILLAH MOHOUMADI W 10 HUGO KASPERSKI
ALVARO GAONA KO 10 ESAU HERRERA
SAKIO BIKA KO 10 DYAH DAVIS
KELLY PAVLIK KO 7 SCOTT SIGMON
WILL ROSINSKY W 8 AARON PRYOR JR

Austin Trout (right) got a lot done from the outside against **Delvin Rodriguez**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

PREDRAG RADOSEVIC W 12 SHALVA JOMARDASHVILI
NICK BLACKWELL KO 1 MIKHEIL KHUTSISHVILI
BILLY JOE SAUNDERS W 12 BRADLEY PRYCE
PETER QUILLIN W 10 RONALD WRIGHT
DAVID LEMIEUX KO 2 JAUDIEL ZEPEDA
MARCOS REYES W 10 OCTAVIO CASTRO
TADASHI YUBA KO 2 FUKUTARO UJIIE
DOMENICO SPADA W 12 MARIUSZ CENDROWSKI
EMANUELE BLANDAMURA KO 10 LUCA TASSI
GILBERTO SANCHEZ KO 8 ISAAC MENDEZ
MARTIN MURRAY W 10 KARIM ACHOUR
JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR. KO 7 ANDY LEE

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

JOSHUA OKINE W 10 RAFAEL SOSA PINTOS
DAVID LOPEZ W 10 JULIO CESAR GARCIA
ERICK OCHIENG W 10 A.A LOWE
JESUS SOTO KARASS W 10 SAID EL HARRAK
GABRIEL ROSADO KO 9 SECHEW POWELL
AKIO SHIBATA W 10 DAISUKE NAKAGAWA
BRIAN ROSE W 12 KRIS CARSLAW
AUSTIN TROUT W 12 DELVIN RODRIGUEZ
ACELINO FREITAS KO 9 MICHAEL OLIVEIRA
SAUL ROMAN KO 2 MARTIN AVILA
JORGE MELENDEZ KO 3 GERMAINE SANDERS
EMANUELE DELLA ROSA W 12 NASSER AL HARBI
SERGEY RABCHENKO KO 7 RYAN RHODES
ABRAHAM HAN KO 4 JOSEPH GOMEZ

WELTERWEIGHTS

FRANKIE GAVIN KO 5 LASZLO KOMJATHI
RAFAL JACKIEWICZ KO 7 LUCIANO ABIS
TEERACHAI KRATINGDAENGGYM W 12 DAN NAZARENO JR.
ALBERTO MOSQUERA KO 4 LUIS ERNESTO JOSE
RONALD CRUZ W 12 PRENICE BREWER
(F) CECILIA BRAEKHUS W 10 JESSICA BALOGUN
DANIEL SANDOVAL KO 6 ENRIQUE COLIN
LUIS ABREGU KO 5 PEDRO VERDU
RANDALL BAILEY KO 11 MIKE JONES
TIMOTHY BRADLEY W 12 MANNY PACQUIAO
THOMAS DULORME KO 7 ALBERTO HERRERA
(F) HOLLY HOLM W 10 ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS
CHRIS VAN HEERDEN W 12 SEBASTIAN LUJAN

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

CLEOTIS PENDARVIS W 12 ROBERT FRANKEL
PABLO CESAR CANO KO 9 FIDEL MUNOZ
PIER OLIVIER COTE KO 5 MARK LLOYD
MIN-WOOK KIM KO 2 ROMEO JAKOSALEM
DENIS SHAFIKOV W 12 BRUNET ZAMORA
CHAD BENNETT KO 8 JAMES ARMAH
GABRIEL BRACERO W 8 JERMAINE WHITE

Guillermo Rigondeaux (left) outclassed **Teon Kennedy**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

LIGHTWEIGHTS

JI-HOON KIM W 10 ALISHER RAHIMOV
SERGIO THOMPSON KO 5 JUAN RAMON SOLIS
JAMIE KAVANAGH KO 2 JORGE IBARRA
PETR PETROV W 10 KAKHABER AVETISIAN
ANDREY KLIMOV KO 10 ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ
LENNY ZAPPAVIGNA W 10 JOEL DELA CRUZ
SHARIF BOGERE KO 2 MANUEL LEYVA
OMAR FIGUEROA KO 1 TYLER ZIOLKOWSKI
TERENCE CRAWFORD KO 2 DAVID RODELA
(F) ENIS PACHECO W 10 ANA LAURA ESTECHE
FELIX LORA KO 4 MASSIMILIANO BALLISAI
(F) ERICA ANABELLA FARIAS KO 1 IRMA ADLER
AL SABAUPAN KO 1 FREDDIE MARTINEZ
MASON MENARD W 12 LONNIE SMITH
CARLOS MOLINA W 10 MARCOS JIMENEZ
MIGUEL VAZQUEZ W 10 DANIEL ATTAH

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

FRANCISCO VARGAS KO 3 FRANCISCO PINA
ANDREW CANCIO W 10 ROCKY JUAREZ
JOEL DIAZ KO 5 EMMANUEL LUCERO
ARASH USMANEE KO 3 ALAN PAREDES
JASON LITZAU KO 1 IRA TERRY

FEATHERWEIGHTS

LEE SELBY KO 5 PATRICK OKINE
CHONLATARN PIRIYAPINYO KO 6 RICHARD OLISA
(F) ALEJANDRA OLIVERAS KO 6 DIANA AYALA
JORGE LARA KO 6 OSCAR ARENAS
RYOL LI LEE KO 5 RYO TAKENAKA

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

REY PEREZ KO 10 TATSUYA TAKAHASHI
CARL FRAMPTON W 12 RAUL HIRALES
GENESIS SERVANIA KO 12 GENARO GARCIA
POONSAWAT KRATINGDAENGGYM KO 5 DONDON JIMENEA
KHEDAFI DJELKHIR KO 2 FRANKLIN TERAN
JESSE MAGDALENO KO 1 CARLOS VALCARCEL
FERNANDO MONTIEL W 12 ARTURO REYES
GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX KO 5 TEON KENNEDY
NOBUO NASHIRO KO 1 KHUNPONLEX WOR WITTAYA
SCOTT QUIGG D 3 RENDALL MUNROE
ROBERT MARROQUIN KO 2 ARTURO SANTIAGO

Leo Santa Cruz (left) undoubtedly made a lot of fans with his impressive victory over **Vusi Malinga**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

BANTAMWEIGHTS
ZHANAT ZHAKIYANOV KO 3 TIMUR SHAILEZOV
LEO SANTA CRUZ W 12 VUSI MALINGA
IMMANUEL NAIDJALA W 12 EMILIO NORFAT
WILLIAM PRADO W 12 DAMIAN MARCHIANO
JORGE ARCE ND 10 JESUS M ROJAS
TABTIMDAENG NA RACHAWAT KO 3 ROMMY WASSAR
NACIFF CASTILLO W 12 LUIS MAY
CARLOS CUADRAS KO 5 JAVIER FRANCO

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
CARLOS RODRIGUEZ KO 7 OSCAR IBARRA
DAVID QUIJANO TECH. WIN 10 JUANITO RUBILLAR

FLYWEIGHTS
LUIS CONCEPCION KO 2 ODILON ZALETA
SILVIO OLTEANU KO 5 GIUSEPPE LAGANA
WILBERT UICAB W 10 HERALD MOLINA
DANIEL ROSAS W 10 ENRIQUE BERNACHE
JUAN MONTES D 12 VICTOR ZALETA
MILAN MELINDO KO 1 JESUS GELES
MCWILLIAMS ARROYO KO 7 RIGOBERTO CASILLAS
KENICHI HORIKAWA W 8 YUSUKE SAKASHITA

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
(F) YESICA YOLANDA BOPP W 10 ANABEL ORTIZ
JUAN PALACIOS D 8 NERYS ESPINOZA
YODMONGKOL VOR SAENGTHEP KO 6 JACK AMISA
DONNIE NIETES W 12 FELIPE SALGUERO
ARMANDO TORRES W 10 SAMMY GUTIERREZ
XIONG ZHAO ZHONG W 12 OSVALDO RAZON

STRAWWEIGHTS
KWANTHAI SITHMORSENG KO 2 HENGKY ELLEUW
CARLOS VELARDE TECH. WIN 6 OSWALDO NOVOA
PORNSAWAN PORPRAMOOK W 8 MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ
MOISES FUENTES KO 1 JULIO CESAR FELIX

Kina Malpartida (right, against **Sriphrae Nongkipahayuth**) is the best women's junior lightweight in the world. Image: **Ernesto Benavides-AFP-Getty Images.**

CREAM OF THE CROP

THE BEST THREE FIGHTERS IN EACH DIVISION, PART I

By: **David A. Avila**

Without television exposure, female prizefighting has gone largely unrecognized. Most women fight under the radar on small fight cards known as club shows. Seldom are they the main event.

It's these factors that make it almost impossible to build a fan base or identify the best female fighters in each division.

Another pothole is that many female fighters with world titles refuse to fight outside of their hometown or country. Once they grab a world title, they build gaudy records even though many have flimsy fighting skills.

Here is a list of the three best female prizefighters in each weight division. The factors we used to make our choices: records, skills, strength of competition and willingness to fight abroad.

This is Part 1 of a two-part series. We begin with the eight lightest weight classes.

STRAWWEIGHTS

SAMSON TOR BUAMAS
COUNTRY: Thailand
AGE: 29
HEIGHT: 5-3
RECORD: 26-2, 11 KOs
SUMMARY: She holds the WIBA and WBC strawweight and junior flyweight world titles. The Thai fighter has a 21-fight winning streak and has not lost since 2007.

MOMO KOSEKI
COUNTRY: Japan
AGE: 30
HEIGHT: 5-4
RECORD: 13-2-1, 3 KOs
SUMMARY: The southpaw lost a title fight to Tor Buamas in 2007 but hasn't lost since. Maybe they ought to meet once again but this time in Japan. Her two losses occurred in Thailand.

ETSUKO TADA
COUNTRY: Japan
AGE: 31
HEIGHT: 5-3 ½
RECORD: 10-0-2, 2 KOs
SUMMARY: The southpaw WBA strawweight champion fought Ria Ramnarine to a draw in Trinidad and Tobago halfway across the globe. That was a gamble but she was willing and able to prove her talent.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

JASSETH NORIEGA
COUNTRY: Mexico
AGE: N/A
HEIGHT: N/A
RECORD: 14-0-1, 5 KOs
SUMMARY: Though she has not built up a fan base comparable to other Mexican fighters, her victory over strawweight titleholder Katy Gutierrez speaks volumes.

ANASTASIA TOKTAULOVA
COUNTRY: Russia
AGE: 35
HEIGHT: N/A
RECORD: 14-11, 2 KOs
SUMMARY: She beat Ramnarine in Trinidad and Tobago for the WBC and WIBA junior fly titles, then moved up in weight and lost to Mariana Juarez. She's fearless. Ignore her record; it doesn't reflect her true talent.

JU HEE KIM
COUNTRY: South Korea
AGE: 26
HEIGHT: 5-0
RECORD: 16-1-1, 7 KOs
SUMMARY: She has the GBU, WBF, WIBA, WIBF, IFBA, WBA titles. But despite all the glitter she has never fought outside of Korea, which means she lacks confidence.

FLYWEIGHTS

MARIANA JUAREZ
COUNTRY: Mexico
AGE: 32
HEIGHT: 5-5 ½
RECORD: 34-5-3, 16 KOs
SUMMARY: The WBC flyweight titleholder has fought numerous times in the U.S. and against heavier opponents. She also is a former junior bantamweight champion. Many consider her one of the top female fighters pound for pound.

AVA KNIGHT
COUNTRY: U.S.
AGE: 23
HEIGHT: 5-4
RECORD: 8-1-3, 5 KOs
SUMMARY: She has knocked out her last two opponents in Mexico, including flyweight titleholder Arely Mucino of Mexico. Knight is the best puncher in the flyweight division. (As this went to print, Knight was scheduled to fight on June 30.)

MELISSA MCMORROW
COUNTRY: U.S.
AGE: 31
HEIGHT: 5-3
RECORD: 7-3-3, 0 KOs
SUMMARY: The resident of San Francisco outpointed then-undefeated Susi Kentikian in May in Kentikian's home country of Germany. That's a significant accomplishment. McMorrow is a pressure fighter.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

ANA MARIA TORRES
COUNTRY: Mexico
AGE: 32
HEIGHT: 5-4
RECORD: 28-3-3, 16 KOs
SUMMARY: The WBC junior bantamweight titleholder is one of the best all-around boxers from Mexico. Her two battles with junior featherweight champion Jackie Nava proved her worth. Her last two losses came in Korea. But it's nearly impossible to win a decision in that country, where the judging and refereeing is notoriously atrocious.

TENKAI TSUNAMI
COUNTRY: Japan
AGE: 27
HEIGHT: 5-2
RECORD: 18-3, 7 KOs
SUMMARY: The WBA junior bantamweight titleholder has fought numerous times outside of her country, in Korea. She is undefeated the past five years.

SIMONA GALASSI
COUNTRY: Italy
AGE: 40
HEIGHT: 5-5
RECORD: 17-1-1, 3 KOs
SUMMARY: The IBF titleholder's only loss was to Juarez last year at flyweight in Mexico. The former flyweight champion can really fight.

BANTAMWEIGHTS

SUSIE RAMADAN
COUNTRY: Australia
AGE: 33
HEIGHT: N/A
RECORD: 22-1, 8 KOs
SUMMARY: She lost to Yazmin Rivas in Mexico and then beat Alesia Graf in Australia. Ramadan showed grit traveling to Mexico, which is one reason she is on this list.

MELINDA COOPER
COUNTRY: U.S.
AGE: 27
HEIGHT: 5-2½
RECORD: 21-2, 11 KOs
SUMMARY: She had been campaigning at a heavier weight class but is actually a bantamweight or junior bantamweight. Her only losses came at 122 pounds. She has speed, tremendous power and experience fighting outside the U.S.

USANAKORN KOKIETGYM
COUNTRY: Thailand
AGE: 24
HEIGHT: N/A
RECORD: 11-1, 10 KOs
SUMMARY: Her only loss came against Torres by a close decision. She packs power but must win by knockout or risk losing by decision. She has fought in Mexico and the Philippines, and at print time was scheduled to face Ramadan in Australia.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

JACKIE NAVA
COUNTRY: Mexico
AGE: 32
HEIGHT: 5-3
RECORD: 27-4-3, 11 KOs
SUMMARY: She knows how to fight and has done so in Argentina and the U.S. She has a loss and a draw against Torres. Lately, she has refused to fight outside of Mexico.

KALIESHA WEST
COUNTRY: U.S.
AGE: 24
HEIGHT: 5-4
RECORD: 15-1-3, 4 KOs
SUMMARY: The former bantamweight world titleholder has moved up a weight division. She has fought in Denmark, Peru and Mexico. She could be the fastest 122-pounder and one of the most skillful.

KATY CASTILLO
COUNTRY: Dominican Republic
AGE: 21
HEIGHT: N/A
RECORD: 15-1, 9 KOs
SUMMARY: She beat Ada Velez for the world title in a tremendous upset earlier in the year. Her only loss was in Panama to the very tough Ogleidis Suarez. (Castillo's next fight was scheduled for July 22.)

FEATHERWEIGHTS

JELENA MRDJENOVICH
COUNTRY: Canada
AGE: 30
HEIGHT: 5-7
RECORD: 27-8-1, 14 KOs
SUMMARY: She found success once she dropped down in weight to featherweight. She beat Fujin Raika in Japan. She has back-to-back knockouts over Olivia Gerula and Lindsay Garbatt. (At press time, she was scheduled to face veteran Belinda Laracuente on June 22.)

OGLEIDIS SUAREZ
COUNTRY: Venezuela
AGE: 24
HEIGHT: N/A
RECORD: 17-2-1, 7 KOs
SUMMARY: She has a five-fight winning streak since moving up to the featherweight class. That includes a victory over Castillo.

DAHIANA SANTANA
COUNTRY: Dominican Republic
AGE: 27
HEIGHT: 5-6
RECORD: 29-6, 13 KOs
SUMMARY: The skillful boxer-puncher recently avenged a loss to Stacey Reile. She has fought in Costa Rica and the U.S. Her next fight was scheduled for July 23 at press time.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

KINA MALPARTIDA
COUNTRY: Peru
AGE: 32
HEIGHT: 5-8
RECORD: 14-3, 4 KOs
SUMMARY: She has lived and fought in Australia, the U.S. and Peru. She uses her reach and speed to win fights and has steadily improved. She has not lost since 2008.

AMANDA SERRANO
COUNTRY: U.S.
AGE: 23
HEIGHT: 5-5
RECORD: 14-1-1, 9 KOs
SUMMARY: She recently loss a decision to Frida Wahlberg in Sweden and has also fought in the Dominican Republic numerous times. She's very strong. She was scheduled to face Garbatt on June 30 at press time.

DIANA PRAZAK
COUNTRY: Australia
AGE: 33
HEIGHT: N/A
RECORD: 11-1, 7 KOs
SUMMARY: She recently won the WIBA title by stopping Garbatt in Australia. She can both box and punch and is very strong for the division. She has been living and training in Los Angeles.

Christy Martin had a dramatc reaction when she heard the verdict she had hoped for in her ex-husband's murder trial: guilty. Image: **McClatchy-Tribune-GettyImages**

NEVERENDING TRIAL

CHRISTY MARTIN'S HUSBAND IS BEHIND BARS FOR ATTEMPTING TO KILL HER BUT SHE'LL ALWAYS LOOK OVER HER SHOULDER

By **Don Stradley**

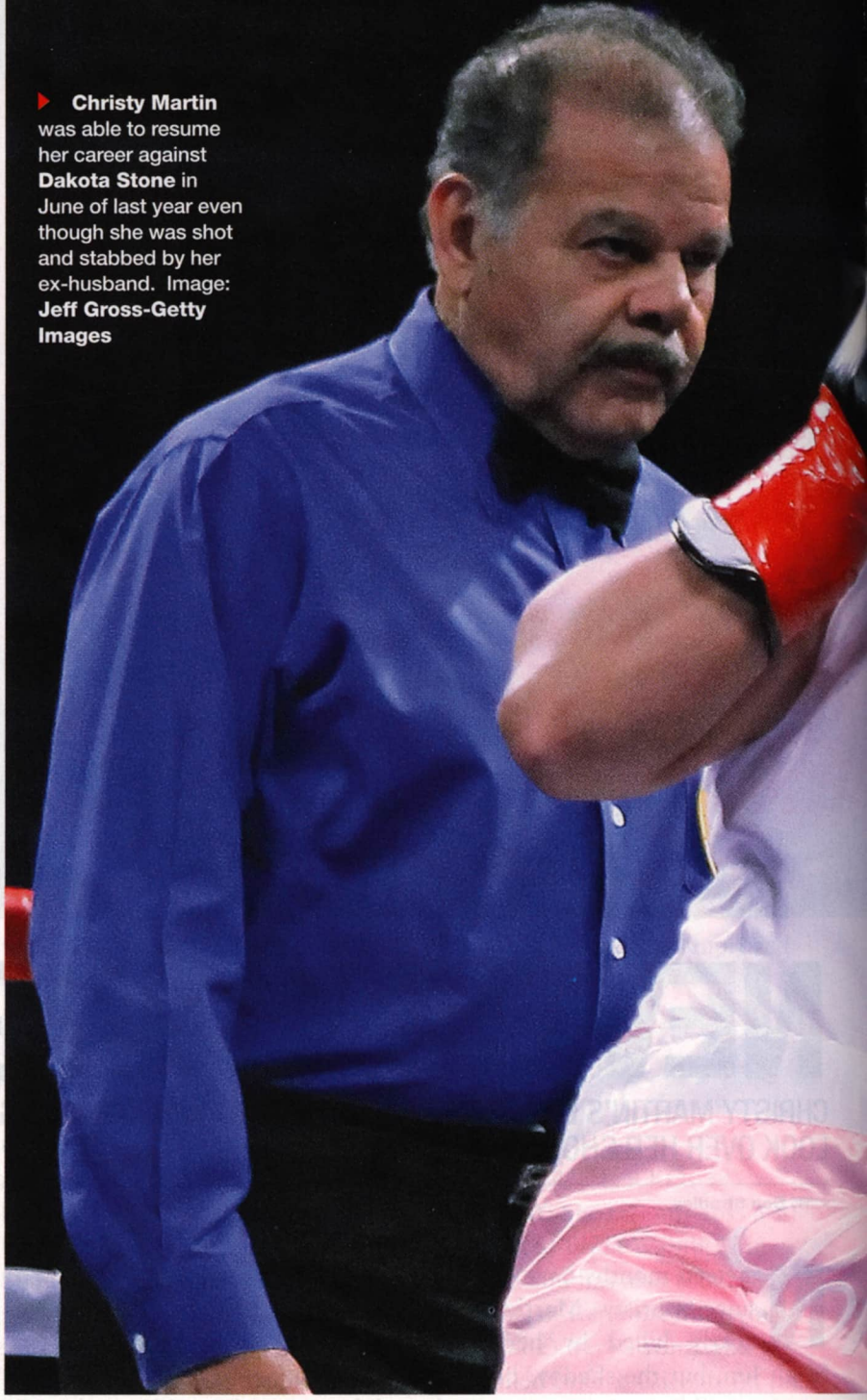
Nineteen months have passed since Christy Martin was nearly killed by her husband, Jim, but the shadow he cast over her still lingers.

Jim Martin was found guilty of attempted second-degree murder in April, his sentencing scheduled for June. The trial was such an emotional ordeal that Christy postponed her June bout with Mia St. John. It will now take place on Aug. 14 in Friant, Calif. She released this statement:

"As the trial grew closer my anxiety rose daily if not hourly as the fear for my safety mounted. Jim Martin is a monster and had always told me he would kill me or have someone else do it. Due to these threats, and his previous actions, as the trial date grew closer, I knew this was a real possibility and was literally paralyzed with fear. After having endured a nearly fatal attack and not sure I would ever walk again, this was overwhelming. I felt as before, boxing would heal me but this was different.

"I love this sport and am equally excited to return to the ring for my 50th victory, but I am mentally and physically exhausted and need to heal. Due to my love for this sport, I want to give all my fans, (promoter) Roy Englebrecht, and Table Mountain Casino, the show they deserve. Thank you for your support during the most difficult period of my entire life."

The marriage of Christy and Jim Martin was a sham from the start, with an underlying whiff of blackmail and psychological bondage. Jim treated Christy as a cash cow and constantly threatened to expose her lesbian past. She dealt with her problems by using cocaine, including one three-year stretch during which she claims to have used it every day.



Christy Martin was able to resume her career against **Dakota Stone** in June of last year even though she was shot and stabbed by her ex-husband. Image: **Jeff Gross-Getty Images**

"I'd get clean enough to pass a drug test, but it was bad," she said. "No one knew. I kept it a secret. I didn't leave my house. I was like any addict, making excuses."

The people closest to Christy knew of her husband's abusive personality, but as she recently told THE RING, "We all just banded together and got the most we could out of the boxing ride."

The ride is nearly over, but not the fear.

"There will always be something in the back of mind," she said, although counseling has helped her become more comfortable. "I knew he was a liar, but I always believed he was telling the truth when he threatened to kill me if I left him. I was certain he'd do it. Even if he's locked up, there might be someone out there that he still has a little bit of friendship with that he could send after me."

The incident took place in November 2010 when Martin informed her husband she was leaving him to be with her longtime friend, Sherry Lusk. Enraged, he beat her, stabbed her and finally shot her, leaving her for dead. While he showered, she left the house, even as she could hear blood gurgling in her lungs, and flagged down a motorist for help. Days later her husband was found hiding in a neighbor's shed.

"Looking back on it all, I can't say I'd do anything differently," she said. "Our lives were so intertwined, personally and professionally; I thought marrying him was what I had to do. I can't say 'Gee, I shouldn't have married him.' He convinced me that I had to marry him. He had me believing that no one else would promote me, or manage me, or train me. He convinced me that everyone would hate me.

"He hated lesbians so much, he wanted me to go forward and spew hatred and venom, to speak out against the lesbians in boxing; he wanted me to be anti-lesbian. But it wasn't just lesbians he hated; he hated Blacks, Asians, everybody. He was definitely the most evil person I'll ever know. I was talking to my counselor today, and I asked, 'What kind of weakness did Jim see in me?' I want to correct it."

Martin has never enjoyed being a public figure, and she hopes for a very private life after her bout with St. John.

"It's one and done," she said. "I'll work with amateur boxers, because working with young people keeps me young, and the kids are great because they have other concerns than how much money is going in and out. But as for professional boxing, I'm gone. The boxing community has embraced me,

but on a business level, I've had enough disappointments."

As for St. John, Martin defeated her by a 10-round decision in 2002. In those days, Martin often accused St. John of being a part-time fighter who was more interested in being a model. In fairness to St. John, "The Knockout" has maintained a busy fight schedule over the years. Still, Martin's opinion hasn't changed.

"I still feel the same. I've always said people like Mia and Laila Ali just used boxing to enhance their other careers." With a giggle, Martin added, "There's nothing wrong with that, but I'm just a fighter."

But at age 43, with a body that has been shot, stabbed and abused with drugs, as well as a hand injury in her last bout, how much fight does Christy Martin have left?

"I'm trying to get my 50th win against Mia," she said. "But if things don't go my way, I'll settle for 49 and call it quits."

Fifty would be nice. It would also be nice to see what victory feels like with Jim Martin out of her life. ■

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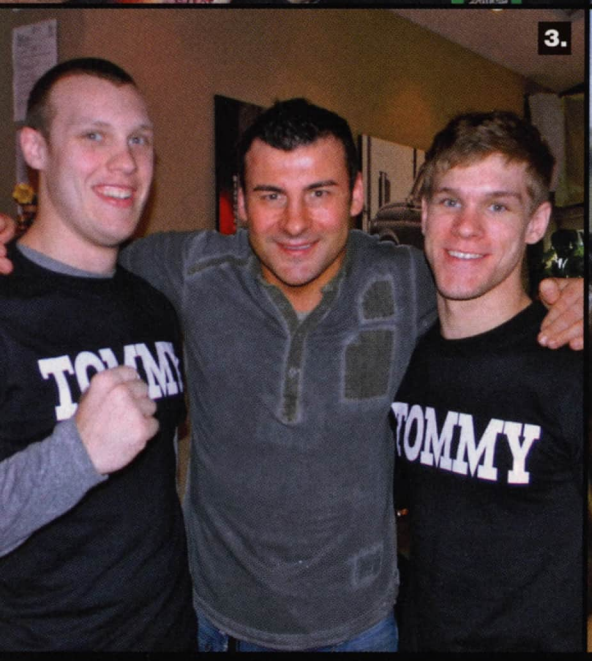

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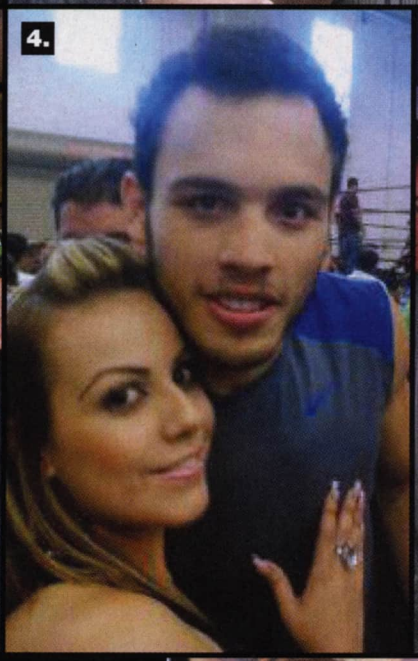

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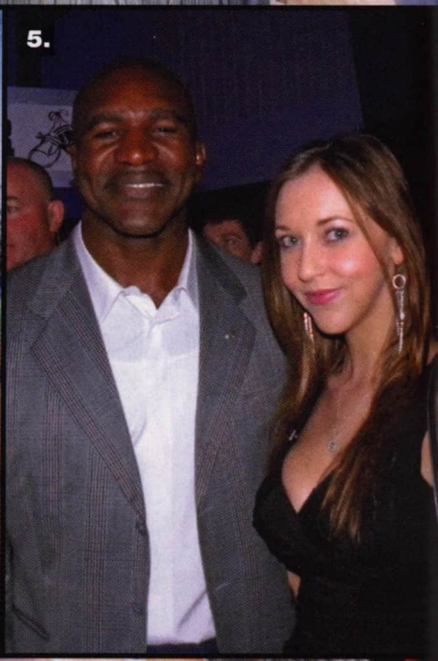

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1. Adrian Ramirez with Nonito Donaire at the Brandon Rios-Richard Abril fight in April in Las Vegas. **2.** Alessandro DiSanto (left) and John DiSanto flank Larry Holmes in June at the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, Pa. **3.** Jeremiah Karpency (left) and Danny Karpency with Joe Calzaghe at the Tommy Karpency-Nathan Cleverly fight in February in Wales. **4.** Perla Haro with Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. during Chavez's training camp for Andy Lee. **5.** Tee Tremblay with Evander Holyfield in May at the Ringside for Youth charity event in Ottawa. **6.** Macken Murphy (left) and Brian Murphy flank Micky Ward at the Kids With Allergies Foundation event in June in Bristol, R.I.

WANT TO SEE YOURSELF IN RING MAGAZINE?

Send us your photos from a fight with you posing next to a celebrity, athlete, or other famous person and we will consider it for publication in the magazine. Send photos to **celebrityphotos@sepublications.com.** Make sure to include your name(s), celebrity name(s), the fight attended, and your contact information. See you at the fights!

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